

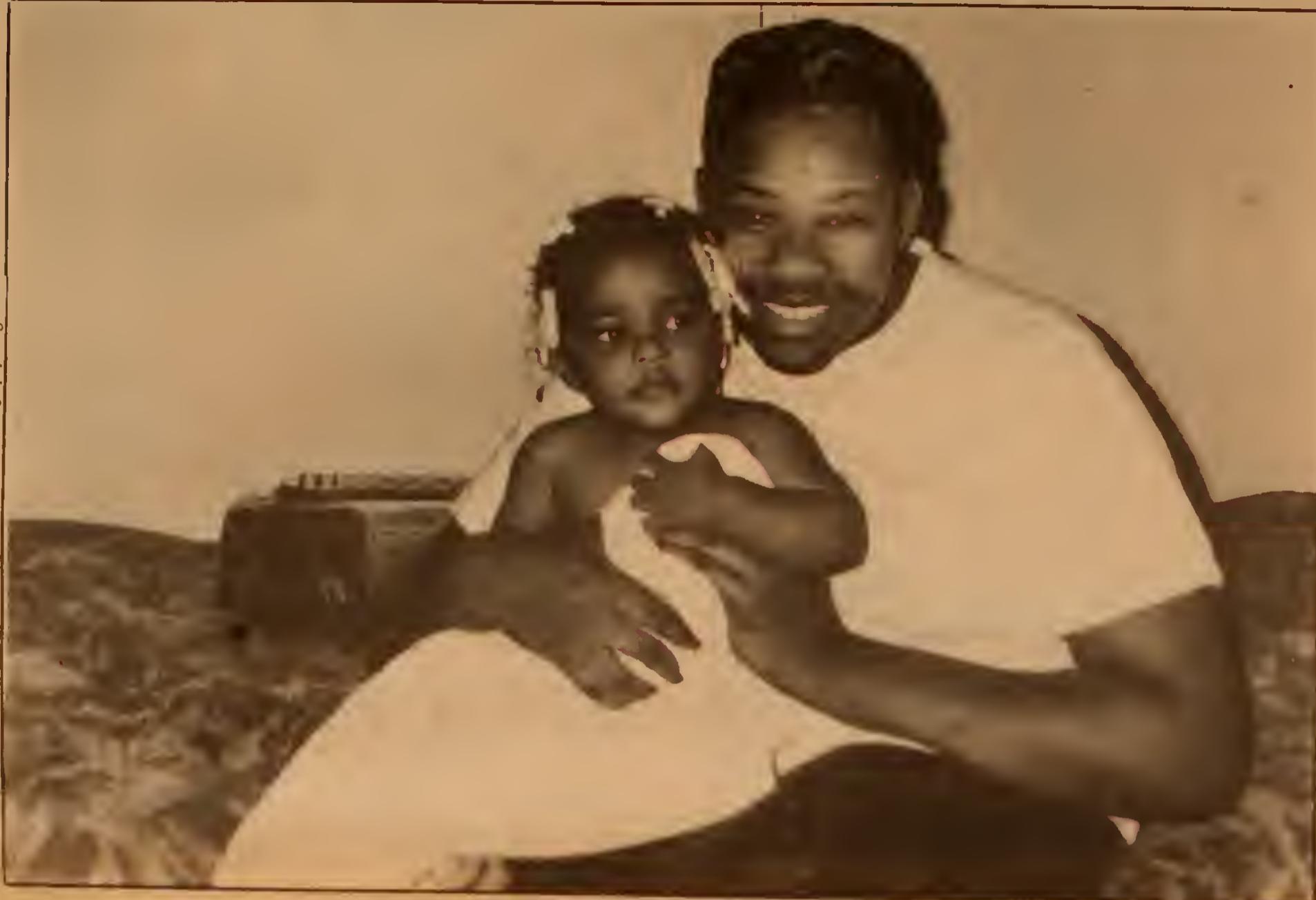
NEW

MARCH

1994

777 VALENCIA ST. • SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94110 • 695-8702 • VICTOR MILLER - EDITOR IN CHIEF

Photo by Denise Crayton Eye Gallery's First Exposures Youth Photography Program



BIOSCIENCE ZONE IS DEAD

Opinion and Obituary by Victor Miller

The scheme to rezone a large portion of the Northeast Mission Industrial Zone (NEMIZ) as a special reserve for the Bioscience industry was once more the target of community wrath at a series of four public hearings at the end of last month.

These hearings, held at various locations in the neighborhood, were sponsored by the Department of City Planning and should not be confused with the nearly two years of public meetings that went on between 1991 and 1993 to determine the future zoning of the NEMIZ, at which Bioscience was never mentioned. Nor are they to be mixed up with the December

1993 forum on the Bioscience and other NEMIZ development proposals conducted by the Mayor's Task Force on the Mission, where the Bioscience plan was denounced. Nor were they the same as the public testimony sessions given before the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission nearly a year ago, at which the Bioscience concept was vilified and ridiculed.

The purpose of the February meetings was ostensibly to sort out the merits of three separate zoning plans for the NEMIZ. One plan was developed by Mission activists and is called the community plan; another is the community plan as altered by technocrats at the Planning Department, sometimes called the Industrial Development Plan. The third plan, Bioscience, would promote the growth of Bioscience industries and eliminate all other land uses in a sizable segment of the NEMIZ.

In spite of the fact that the Bioscience Plan

has no adherents in the Mission; no identified support from the Bay Area's Bioscience industry and has been rejected by UCSF, who is looking at a possible expansion of operations into the NEMIZ, it has nonetheless been the focal point everyone's attention for more than a year. The Bioscience zone may be a dumb idea, but it is a dumb idea orchestrated by Planning Commission President Sidney Unobskey, a politically well-juiced presence in Mayor Jordan's election campaign and probably in the soon-to-be-underway re-election campaign. To mollify the irascible Unobskey, whom some Planning Department staff refer to as Sid Vicious, the Jordan administration has let the Bioscience Plan live on far past the point where common sense should have killed it off.

The real purpose of this endless round of meetings on the NEMIZ is to make it clear to
CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

BBI FAILURES SPARK TAKEOVER

HEATLESS HOMES ENRAGE TENANTS

by Robin Snyderman

"We're taking over the Bureau of Building Inspection (BBI)," announced a remarkable alliance of organizations at a petition drive kickoff in February. Participants included grass-roots tenants groups, the Residential Builders Association and the Apartment House Association.

Taking over, in this case, means amending the City Charter to create a new Department of Building Inspection, which would be managed by a Citizens Commission.

Currently, BBI is under the auspices of the Department of Public Works, which is supervised by the City's Chief Administrative Officer, Rudy Nothenberg.

The existing system, by all accounts, is failing. The petition drive offers a recipe for success via citizen oversight and accountability.

The noisy Coalition for Code Enforcement (CCE), which only came together 15 months ago, is spearheading this drive. In fact, a year to the day prior to the kickoff, members and over 100 supporters met with BBI director Larry Lichfield and demanded better enforcement of the housing code Citywide. They presented nine demands; but while Lichfield agreed to implement each one, he ultimately changed nothing.

Accordingly, protesters swarmed BBI

headquarters and marched with City officials to a typically uninhabitable residential hotel where welfare recipients were referred. "City Money Supports Slumlords" spread through all the local papers, and a few weeks afterward, the Board of Supervisors held hearings on the subject.

Two hotel fires and one lawsuit later, the Supervisors voted to implement a few of the Coalition's nine demands. A good start? "No," says Coalition organizer Jamie Sanbonmatsu. "It's still gross neglect." Why? "Because despite all the press coverage and changed legislation, families like the Rodriguezes on Folsom Street continue to live without heat in a city with laws on the books that could have repaired that heat 48 hours after it was reported lacking in March. The Rodriguezes are not alone. Their case is typical, and they deserve better. We demand better. Citizens oversight is a critical need." If their petition drive is successful and November voters agree that a Citizens Commission will result in better accountability and leadership, the CCE may have worked itself out of a job, because improved code enforcement will result in better living conditions throughout the City.

Apparently, only good housing will quiet this crowd!

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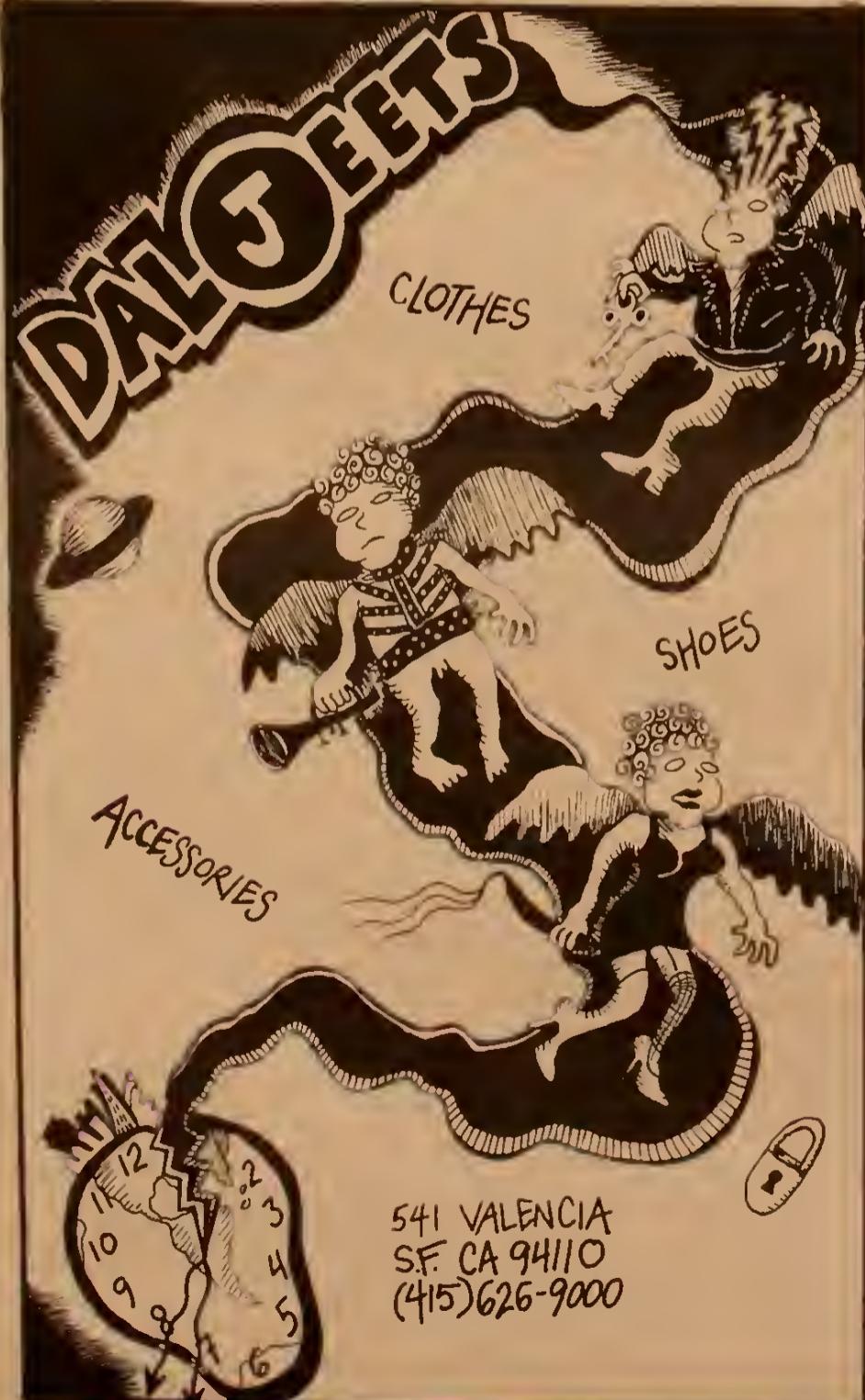


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VALENCIA BIKE ROUTE YES!

by David Snyder, Executive Director of the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition

Motorists: Have you ever driven a car and wondered why that bicyclist in front of you won't move over a few feet and let you pass? Read on. The Department of Parking and Traffic is planning to change Valencia Street to solve this problem.

The current proposal calls for eliminating the 5-foot (60") median and distributing the extra space in the traffic lanes to make more room for bikes to share the road with motor vehicles. Initially, the proposal called for adding a mere 18" to each of the outside lanes and 12" to each of the inside lanes. But thanks to the testimony at the public meeting on February 9 and some negotiating by the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition (SFBC), the Department is now considering distributing all 60" in the outside lanes. The additional 30" in each of the right lanes is a potential lifesaver.

Valencia Street currently presents a classic no-win situation for bicyclists. Because the lane is so narrow, the safety-conscious bicyclist will ride in about the center of the right lane. To move farther to the right is to risk being "doored" — having a car door suddenly open in one's path, an accident that has broken the collarbones of at least two of my friends.

Getting doored is a pervasive fear among bicyclists, for good reason: About three times more injuries are caused by a motorist opening the door into a bicyclist's path than are caused by a motorist hitting a bicyclist from behind. That statistic was enough to convince me to always give myself enough room on the right. The Catch-22, however, is that when I ride in

the safe part of a narrow lane (near the middle), I incur the wrath of motorists who think that bicyclists are required to move out of their way. I must choose between risking my life riding too close to car doors or risking my life by impeding someone in too much of a hurry.

I will be very happy if this proposal adds an extra 30" to the right lane of Valencia Street; and frankly, so will the motorists who are now delayed 10 or 20 seconds by my safety requirements in narrow lanes.

The other group of people affected by the elimination of the median would be those who use it to park on Sundays. However, as long as San Francisco continues its liberal tradition of allowing churchgoers to park illegally on Sundays, they have nothing to worry about. They can simply switch from the median to the right lane, an arguably safer situation.

The SFBC supports the proposed changes as a step in the right direction. Our interest in Valencia street is not just for an extra 30", however. In the long run, we would like to see design changes in a network of streets citywide. By installing real bike lanes, dedicated bus lanes, wider sidewalks, pedestrian amenities and by slowing down car traffic, we can make our neighborhoods a safer place for everyone to walk, shop or visit with neighbors. Bicyclists are in this for the long haul; and fortunately, making streets safer for bicycle traffic will make them safer for everyone.

The next public hearing on the Valencia bike route will be on Tuesday March 15 at 4 p.m., at San Francisco City Hall in room 282. For more information call the S.F. Bicycle Coalition at 751-BIKE.

J. Lynn Johnson, 46, died after a long illness at his home in Wolf Creek, Oregon. Mr. Johnson attended Southport High School and graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Illinois where he was president of Phi Kappa Psi.

He lived in San Francisco then retired to Wolf Creek five years ago after a successful career as an entrepreneur. He was an author, speaker and counselor. He had been a writer for the "North Mission News" in San Francisco and the "King Mountain Advocate" in southern Oregon. He was deeply concerned with raising society's consciousness about the AIDS crisis and helping people it has afflicted. He was also involved with environmental issues and active in many organizations working to save and improve the world for future generations.

Lynn is survived by his partner, Ivan St. John of Wolf Creek, his brother Lee and nephews Janusz and Jeremiah Johnson of Indianapolis, as well as a multitude of people whose lives were bettered by his presence.

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CRIME: NO EASY ANSWERS

COMMUNITY POLICING AND FULL STAFFING ARE PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

by Stett Holbrook

In the face of persistent crime, the call for more police in the Mission wails like a siren. The need for more police, however, includes not just issues of quantity but of quality. As a means of providing more effective police service, the concept of community policing has been batted around for years. But while the idea has its adherents, it remains difficult to implement.

Community policing is an attempt to bring police and the neighborhoods they serve into a closer relationship. Most often this involves an officer walking a beat and becoming familiar with the day-to-day habits of a particular area.

One element of community policing not often discussed is the responsibility that members of the community must take. Captain Joaquin Santos defines community policing in a way that goes beyond simply having a cop walk a beat and attend neighborhood meetings.

"[We need] more support from the community, more finger-pointing," Santos explained. "Not just calling the police but getting actively involved and helping us. Community policing means that the community has to assist the police department in policing their own neighborhoods...when I come through and paint out the graffiti on somebody's wall, I expect them from that time on to come out and paint out that graffiti themselves."

Santos cited a recent example of community involvement: During an attempted robbery at a Walgreen's drug store, three individuals succeeded in wrestling the would-be robber to the ground. The police arrived and, in effect, had to rescue the suspect from his captors. It was later revealed that the suspect had a prior record of robbery and attempted murder.

"This is my philosophy," Santos said. "A man sticks a gun in your face and if you've got a baseball bat in your hand and you beat him across the head, I'm going to give you a medal for it. That's community policing in a sense."

What they did," he added, "was they helped us catch this guy. They caught him, we came and we took him to jail."

As Chair of the Public Safety Committee of the Mayor's Mission Task Force, Ethel Newlin is responsible for making recommendations to Mayor Jordan about crime in the Mission. Based on her investigation of the area's public safety needs, she believes, "more [police] and more effective use of existing staff" are the best means of combatting crime. "You can't have any pro-active policing without it," she said. Newlin is a proponent of community policing, but sees low staffing as the biggest obstacle to putting it into effect.

At a recent meeting in the Mission on crime, Mayor Jordan addressed these and other issues. "What I pledge to you here in your neighborhood," the Mayor stated, "is exactly what I was elected to do and that is to look at public safety as my number one critical issue." Jordan promised additional police officers, more community policing, and greater police visibility. In March, 50 police academy graduates will join the ranks of the City's police. The Mission station, Jordan promised, can expect at least 10 new officers.

While most Mission residents favor beat cops and community policing, the Mission district faces a shortage of police officers. Community policing is also time-consuming. The Mission is the City's busiest police station, and this means community policing must take a back seat to more pressing matters.

The Mission police station has 115 officers. Because this figure includes officers on sick-leave, vacation, or otherwise unavailable for immediate service, the number actually working the streets is considerably lower. And yet Mission Station consistently receives the most calls and makes the most arrests of any station

In 1993, police in the Mission made 10,000 arrests. As of early February this year, almost 1,000 arrests have already been made. During the first weekend of February, there were 1,118 requests for police service. These calls



Photo by Eugene Kettner

included incidents of shots fired, kidnapping, burglary, and armed robbery. One hundred and three of these calls were "A" priority calls — crimes involving a threat to life. Such numbers are not aberrant but typical of a weekend in the Mission. In addition to responding to calls, the police must also respond to crimes that they see taking place.

Low police numbers are a citywide problem. According to statistics cited by Board of Supervisors member Bill Maher, Police

Department staffing levels fall far short of what is needed. The current staffing level, Maher says, is 535 officers short of the national large city average and 247 officers below the national city average. These numbers are especially relevant in light of a recent report from the state legislative analyst's office. Based on figures drawn from 1992 crime reports, the report ranked San Francisco's rate of violent crime the highest in the state.

Proposition 172, passed last year, was sup-

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posed to provide some \$44 million in tax-generated funds for public safety in San Francisco. Supervisor Maher, however, stated that less than one-fifth of the proceeds are used for this purpose. As a remedy, members of the Board of Supervisors voted 9-2 to put forth an amendment that would mandate bringing the understaffed police department up to the 1,971-level established 15 years ago. In spite of their apparent resolve, however, board members seem to be at cross purposes.

As of 1 January 1994, San Francisco county was eligible for Proposition 172 funds only if the Board of Supervisors voted in favor to participate; they did. And yet now they have voted for full staffing, something they should already be able to achieve with Prop. 172 funds. So, what happened to the \$44 million from Prop. 172?

At a cost of \$4 million, construction of the new Mission police station located on Valencia between 17th and 18th Streets will be completed December 1994. The new building will replace the deteriorating and overcrowded one at 1250 Valencia.

The old station was built in the 1950s and was designed to house 55 police officers. Currently, there are 115 officers working out of the building.

The new site will be a two-level structure with many features not found in the old station. One of the changes most welcomed by the police will be on-site parking for all the precinct's cars. Currently, the old police station has 12 parking spaces for some 25 cars.

NEW COP SHOP UPDATE

Due to the lack of parking, police must park in red zones, double park and squeeze in with Mission residents. The new building will also have a community meeting room, a gym and a video-education center for sexual exploitation and child pornography crimes.

The juvenile bureau, currently located in the unlikely area of Pacific Heights, will be moved to the Mission station. The Mission District has the highest concentration of juveniles in the city.

An issue that has raised the concern of some area residents is the new station's detention capacity. The building, however, will become no "Fort Mission." Like the existing site, the new station will have four or five holding

cells. Prisoners will be held up to four hours at which time they will be released or sent to the Hall of Justice at 850 Bryant.

In a year's time, the 600 block of Valencia will have a decidedly new look and presence. In addition to the new police station, a 50-unit low-income housing development for seniors will be constructed on the site between the police station and the Busy Bee market. The Mission Housing Development Corporation received a \$3.8 million grant from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and \$500,000 in City funds to manage the site. Construction is set to begin in summer or fall of 1995.

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THE PISS BOX AND OTHER DELICACIES

By Ms. Rebel

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I can't decide which is worse
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The rancid nosethril of a-junkie-pimped-up-n-pumped-out-with one-stroke
The former chokes me with a different kiss
While the gathering of ochreous pondspill hums blitzed
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It's a public utility you know
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and yellow in between
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I watch them from a room upstairs
But they don't seem to care
SHAME? I've seen more modest canines lift a leg.
And what of the bitches. Where do they go?
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the Grassroots report

By: D. Michael Spero

PODER TO THE PEOPLE

What's the number one environmental disease of American children? Lead poisoning. What's the cure? Organizing. Where can you get this treatment? From PODER (People Organizing to Demand Environmental Rights).

Children ingest lead from paint dust and contaminated soil at thousands of dwellings in the Mission. Twelve percent of Mission kids suffer from lead poisoning, but San Francisco has no lead clean-up program. There's no regular testing of buildings or children. The Bureau of Building Inspection (BBI) does not cite landlords for high lead levels. So it's up to parents to demand testing from their doctors and clean-up from their landlords.

That's where PODER comes in. Their organizers, many of them parents of lead-poisoned kids, go door-to-door informing people of the danger and encouraging them to act. "Organizing is mobilizing people to do something," says Lisa Pagan, PODER organizer. "Our focus is getting people involved in action."

Lead poisoning strikes low-income families particularly hard, especially immigrants who often live in decaying housing. PODER, an environmental justice group, sees lead poisoning as an issue of environmental racism and economic injustice. Their membership is mostly Latino and Asian.

"People don't know their rights," says Angela Hodgson, a bright young PODER intern.

"Landlords can take advantage of them because they have no other place to go."

PODER holds building meetings where lead-poisoned kids live. "Some landlords will ignore one tenant asking for clean-up," says Pagan, "but if all the tenants sign a letter and make phone calls, they can get results. If there's no correction in a reasonable time, say one month, tenants can go to the Rent Board and ask for a rent reduction. They can also get BBI to inspect the building. If you go in person and harass them, the inspectors will come out."

Pagan cites one building near Valencia where two children had been poisoned by contaminated soil in the yard. An entire year went by with the children's lead levels dangerously high and no action by the landlord. Finally, the parents asked their neighbors for help. "Everyone called; the clean-up was performed, and the children's levels have gone down," she said.

Founded in 1991 by Mission activists Leticia Alcantar, Josue Gullen and David Portillo, PODER has had great success. They've pushed the Department of Public Health (DPH) to do more screening, raised health-care providers' consciousness about lead, gotten buildings cleaned up. But kids are still being poisoned. Recently Angela Hodgson's two-year-old daughter Emily showed up with a high lead level, putting her in danger of mental retardation and other developmental problems.



It's so frustrating," says Pagan angrily. "Doctors still won't test. A year ago, Emily had anemia, a common symptom of lead poisoning. She was sick a lot, but they never thought of lead until Angela demanded testing. And they won't notify. When DPH finds a case of lead poisoning, they come out and test the apartment, but they don't tell other parents in the building there's a lead problem. They don't inform the BBI of lead inspection results." The result: Kids suffer while parents remain ignorant until someone like PODER fills them in

PODER's current organizing drive aims to correct the DPH attitude. They've demanded that DPH cooperate with other agencies to enforce clean-up and notify all tenants potentially at risk of the dangers and of their rights. They're building support for a community meeting with DPH to be held Saturday, March 19 at 2:00 p.m. at the Mission Neighborhood Health Center on Shotwell.

As usual, they're doing it the old-fashioned way, door-to-door. "It's labor-intensive and it's slow," says Pagan. "But it's the only way. Most people don't read flyers. We don't even take much written information with us. We

like to get invited in and have a real discussion, get to learn about them, encourage their participation."

I've always found it difficult to get people to go door-to-door, but Hodgson says it's a matter of preparation. "We go to bilingual teams; no one has to go alone," she says. "Everyone has the information they need to answer people's questions, so they feel comfortable."

Organizations like PODER are on the cutting edge of positive change in the Mission. (Pagan is 23, Hodgson only 19.) Their members are people willing to do the hard work of mobilizing residents to fight for their community. They plan to expand their scope soon to combat violence, particularly domestic violence. Says Pagan: "Our goal is to have a strong community organization where members know how to mobilize and create change."

"People think the solution to their problems is leaving," says Hobson. "But the solution is action. If people leave, the problems stay."

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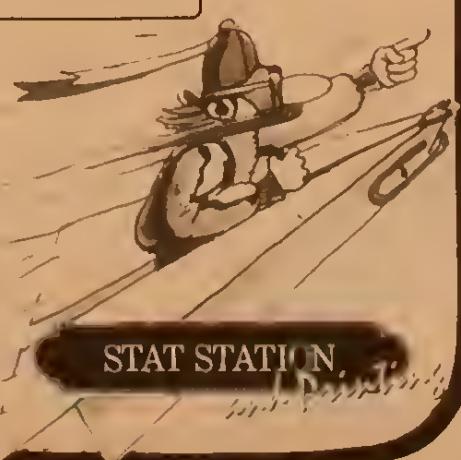
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by andy solow

The Great Garbage Caper

At the beginning of February, I was assigned to investigate the vacant lot located at 2171 Mission St. (between 17th & 18th). According to several Mission residents, the lot has been full of refuse, garbage and rodents off and on for at least two years.

After about two weeks and eight hours of work, I was able to get the owner of the property, Daniel Kass, to haul away most of his mess and agree to install a taller fence "immediately." At press time, the taller fence had still not been installed and there were a lot of rats running around on the empty lot; but at least Kass had made a good faith effort to take clean up his property.

So far, the great City of San Francisco has been screwing around with Daniel Kass and 2171 Mission Street for more than two years, creating a paper mountain without achieving any tangible results. What do I mean? Here's the story.

I started by trying to determine the identity of the true owner of the property. Public records in the Assessor's and Recorder's Offices at City Hall showed that Mission Block 3575, Lot 34, is owned by City Investment Corp. (CIC), a corporation located in Milbrae; but the individual actually responsible for the property was not listed. The identities of the people behind the corporate veil were available in the office of the Secretary of State (SOS) at the State Building on Golden Gate Ave., one block from City Hall.

It turns out that the SOS requires payment for a corporate status inquiry in the form of two separate checks, one for \$10 for counter service and one for \$4 to print out one page of information. The clerk refused my \$20 bill and directed me to the Post Office in the basement of the Federal Building across the street to purchase the required money orders. The Post Office charged me \$1.50 for the two money orders and I finally discovered that Daniel Kass was both the president of and agent (for service of process) for CIC.

Interestingly, the principal executive address, the California address, the mailing address, the CIC President's address and the CIC Agent's address were all the same. It took me a total of two hours to get this far.

I then called CIC and, because 2171 Mission is for sale, Skyline Realty, and got conflicting messages. Kent Kockos of Skyline said that the owner was planning to clean up his property, but CIC's attorney, Bradley Kass of Kass & Kass, claimed that the City and County was responsible for the mess and threatened to sue me and the News if we printed anything about his client. Bradley Kass also made similar threats and claims in a letter (dated 11/30/93) to the Bureau of Environmental Health Services (BEHS).

By the way, Bradley Kass is Daniel's son and Kass & Kass is located at exactly the same address as CIC. I told Bradley that I knew his father was the true owner of 2171 Mission and threatened to turn up the heat unless they cleaned up their property.

A few days later, I got another call from Kent Kockos. Kockos had hired two people to clean up 2171 Mission, but the junkies who had taken over the vacant lot threatened to kill them if they touched anything. I connected Kockos with Mission Police Station and Sgt. Ratti arranged for police protection for the workers so they could clean up the lot.

While playing telephone tag with CIC, D. Kass, B. Kass, Kass & Kass, and Skyline Realty, I continued my records search, starting with a pilgrimage to the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Bureau of Building Inspection (BBI) at 450 McAllister St. First, I went to the records room and requested the property history. The DPW clerk told me that I could not look at the microfilm records myself. I would have to submit a written "Microfilm Record Request" with a \$5 deposit and wait three days to find out what the charge for printing the information would be.

I abandoned this course as hopeless and went to see the District Building Inspector who

had the authority to access the records on demand. Mission District Inspector Richard Torres told me that the BBI had no jurisdiction over the property located at 2171 Mission Street because there is no building on the site. He claimed that he had passed by the property recently and frequently and was not aware of the presence of any garbage, rats, or junkies. He said that if I wanted to pursue the matter, I should contact the Department of Public Health.

I walked the long block to 101 Grove Street and was told by the clerk in room 217 that I was in the wrong place and would have to go to 1380 Howard Street. The inspectors and clerks at 1380 Howard Street told me that the person I needed to talk to would not be back until the following day.

The next day, BEHS Inspector Olga Jaurigui told me that the records I wanted would cost me \$0.45 per page but she could not talk to me or give me any records without the permission of the Bureau's Public Information Officer, Wendy Iwata.

After five phone calls, I gave up on Iwata and went to see the Director of Environmental Health, Ben Gale, at 101 Grove Street Room 217, where I had started two days before. Gale gave me a copy of the current records (free of charge). A cursory inspection of the records revealed that all BEHS correspondence regarding 2171 Mission had been directed to CIC instead of Daniel Kass doing business as (dba) CIC. I gave Gale a copy of the corporate status printout I had obtained from the office of the SOS. Gale claimed that his department had no access to SOS records and admitted that he was not aware that there is an SOS office at 455 Golden Gate Ave., two blocks away.

One final visit to 1380 Harrison Street yielded what I was told is the balance of the Environmental Health file on 2171 Mission Street. The file contains complaints about rats, garbage, food waste, debris, weeds, and homeless people dating back to September 1992. I wonder how far back the complaints really go.

One reason that problems of this nature never seem to get cleaned up is that normal BEHS and BBI procedures only require that correspondence be sent to the owner of record listed in the Assessor's Office, not the person ultimately responsible for abating the public nuisance or health hazard in question.

Thus, though the BEHS inspectors followed their department's procedures, and the public health hazard at 2171 Mission Street was "abated" twice in the last two years, the property is still infested with rats and the garbage/junkie problem will continue to recur until someone makes Daniel Kass, dba CIC, build and maintain a fence that is adequate to keep people out of his vacant lot.

You might think that the City Attorney is responsible for making sure that chronic problems of this nature are cleaned up, but when the News contacted Assistant City Attorney George Akwo a few months ago and asked him what Mission District properties he was working on, he evaded the question and did not return subsequent phone calls.

The News has since learned that Akwo has been replaced by Assistant City Attorney Mitchell Omerberg. If the City Attorney's office holds true to form, we can expect Omerberg to be transferred as soon as he becomes familiar with the Mission, about six months from now.



GRIME FIGHTERS GET TOUGH

by Victor Miller

Keeping this neighborhood clean is a tough job, and finally, somebody's gotten around to doing it. Actually, it's quite a few somebodies. Organized as "Mission Renaissance," a coalition of businesses, neighborhood groups, non-profit corporations and City agencies has taken aim at the Mission District's persistent grime problem.

Hoping to overcome years of neglect that have been interrupted only by sporadic clean-up efforts, Mission Renaissance, now with two dozen member organizations, wants to set in motion a permanent and comprehensive campaign to improve both the Mission's physical appearance and self-image. "We hope to instill in people a sense of individual responsibility for the way the neighborhood looks," said Hilda Bernstein, one of the organizers of Mission Renaissance.

The group has successfully lobbied the Mayor's Office for support, and Mayor Jordan is set to declare April "Mission Renaissance Month."

To redefine the Mission's public image as something other than Funky City, a series of contests is underway in the school system to create a more appealing community concept. There is a logo contest for the elementary school kids, a slogan contest for middle school students and a poster contest for high schoolers. Selected posters will be displayed at Intersection for the Arts in April.

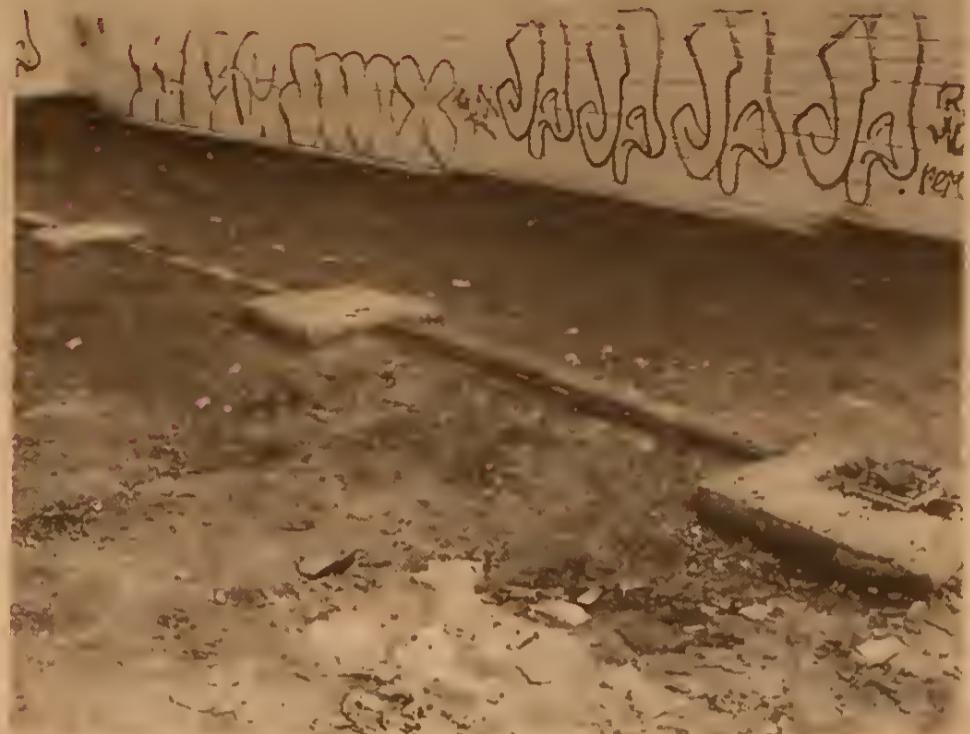
The Mayor's Office has provided \$4900 in funding for contest prizes, tee shirts, and Mission Renaissance window decals to be given out to those merchants who demonstrate the Renaissance spirit. "They're going to have to earn those decals," says Bernstein.

A kickoff event set for April 9th at 16th and Mission will include Mayor Frank Jordan, bands, speakers and lots of yet-to-be-an-

Elsewhere in this issue, the News has examples of the combination of private-sector turpitude and public-sector ineptitude Mission Renaissance is going to have to overcome. The problem of the garbage-filled vacant lot at 2171 Mission detailed by the Mission Broadside on page 8 becomes even more infuriating in light of a letter dated November 30, 1993, from Bradley Kass, attorney for the property's owner, to Health Inspector Olga Jaurigui. Kass informs Jaurigui he's busy the day he's been cited to appear at a hearing on the environmental hazard posed by his client's property, proceeds to blame the whole thing on "homeless peddlers" and then goes on the attack: "Your threat with the citation to appear is outrageous, and should you proceed to have a misdemeanor citation issued, you will be held personally responsible..."

The City's attempts to collect inspection and reinspection fees, Kass calls a "conspiracy to harass private parties." Lawyer Kass concludes on a humanitarian note: "Please advise within ten days as to what steps the mayor's office and/or the police department are taking to achieve your goal of throwing the homeless and the peddlers out in the street." Mr. Kass has probably blown any chance of a Mission Renaissance decal.

On page six of this issue, local wordsmithress Ms. Rebel memorializes one of the Mission's most enduring monuments to negativity. The large metal box on the corner of 17th and Mission that controls Mission Street traffic signal has been used for so long as a public toilet that large pieces of it have been eaten away by uric acid. Maria Martinez, who operates a business half a block away, spent weeks fighting her way through the bureaucratic maze to determine who was responsible for this fouled mechanism; it turned out to be Bart. Bart dispatched a crew to paint what locals refer to as the Piss Box and ended up making the thing even more hideous, as can be seen from the post-paint job photo.



This controversial lot at 2171 Mission St. was, despite the "conspiracy", cleaned up shortly before we went to press. Photo by Eugene Kettner

Mission Renaissance may want to develop an "unclear on the concept" decal for Bart.

Our readers undoubtedly have numerous other examples of tasks out there that need doing if the Mission is ever going to overcome the sleaziness that plagues it. If you would like to help Mission Renaissance in this worthy effort, call Hilda Bernstein at 282-8232, Cathy Courtney at 553-8717, or Ethel Newlin at 864-5205.

Mission Renaissance members are: The Madrina Group, St. John's Educational Thresholds Center, M.E.D.A., Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association, Mission Police

Station, S.F. Unified School District, Mission High School R.O.T.C., Dolores Park Coalition, S.F. Dept. of Public Works, Y.W.C.A., S.F. Recreation and Parks Dept., Youth Conservation Corps, Mission Playground Association, Golden Gate Lutheran Church, University of California San Francisco, San Francisco League of Neighborhoods, Intersection for the Arts, Northeast Mission Business Association, Mission Merchants Association, Mission Housing Development Corporation, and more coming.



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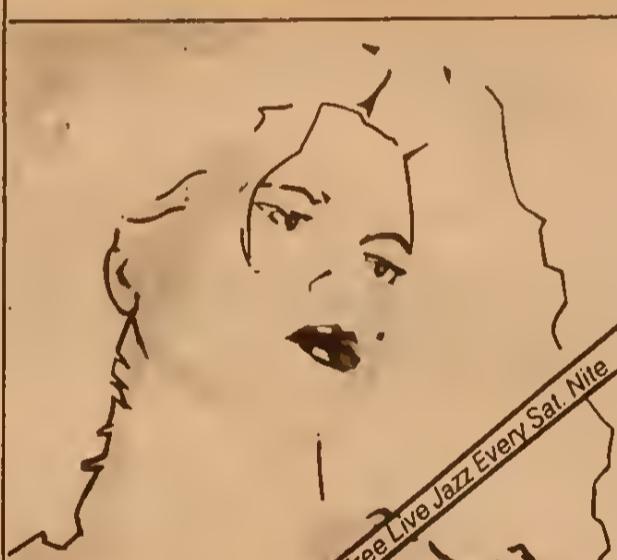
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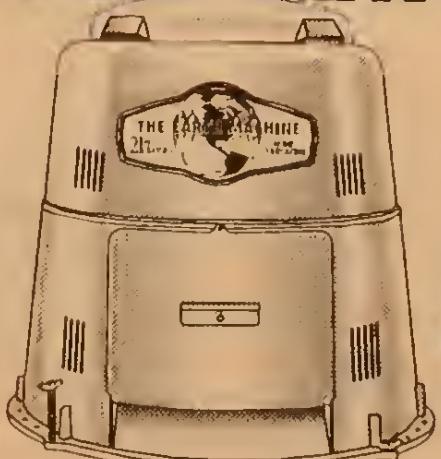
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SNAP SHOTS

as inspired by Snap the Wonder Dog

By Robin Snyderman

It's been a long time since Snap missed work on a Friday — bringing her along is a weekly ritual I hate to disrupt. But last month, I had to attend two Friday meetings in the Civic Center; public policy issues interrupted our private policy of Snap's Office Day. However, I'm inclined to think these particular meetings were worth the disruption ... though only time will tell.

OUNDING LOUISE

On Friday, February 4th, the Coalition for Code Enforcement (CCE) met with City Attorney Louise Renne to follow up on a January press conference about substandard Mission buildings and other Coalition efforts. Since housing conditions can make or break a person's quality of life, the public policies discussed with her affect thousands of private lives.

The City Attorney does not supervise the workings of the Bureau of Building Inspection (BBI). To the contrary, she is their loyal attorney. But Coalition members pleaded with her to use her clout to catalyze organization and efficiency in the BBI, which is sorely lacking both. She seemed to hear this loud and clear.

Word has it that, since the February 4th meeting, Ms. Renne has expressed an interest in contracting with a Mission-based organization like St. Peter's Housing Committee to work for her Code Enforcement Task Force (CETF). This task force, which gathers monthly in Renne's office, is also comprised of inspectors from five other City departments which partake in code enforcement: BBI, Fire, Police, Health and Planning. Recently, CETF secured funds to hire a Spanish-speaking community organizer. By contracting with St. Peter's or another grass-roots agency, instead of hiring a new bureaucrat, the City Attorney would set a refreshing precedent.

CCE has long advocated for BBI to hire Spanish-speaking staff and/or to contract with community groups. People could improve their living conditions if they learned their rights and accessed the system. Although BBI has not responded to the plea, Renne's offer to do her share is a tremendous boon.

If this concept becomes a reality — and we'll find out by the next issue of the News — the Mission's housing stock will begin to recuperate from years of neglect, and I'll say conclusively that the February 4th meeting was worth a Friday without Snap.

ENFORCEMENT BITE

On Friday, February 11th, CETF — which was born out of last year's code enforcement legislation — met for its second time ... and truly got down to business. Talk about public policy (or the lack thereof) effecting private lives: The group began dissecting and dealing with the dizzying dilemma that our BBI almost totally lacks a priority system in responding to housing code violations. In a City with over 20,000 multi-unit residences and about 20 inspectors, this is scary.

You may find it odd and irksome that our City (a) hosts an interdepartmental CETF; (b) infuriates advocates enough to form the CCE; and now, (c) appoints a Citizen's Task Force to study code enforcement reform.

This sort of muddle prompts many to pine for a benevolent dictator instead of a banal democracy. I suppose good leadership and accountability is the compromise. And this is precisely what the CCE has in mind with its petition drive to let voters decide whether BBI needs to be supervised by a Citizens Commission. (See front page article). In the meantime, the CETF is working to establish a priority system for mitigating code violations and to build consensus among tenants and property owners, contractors and activists. Such broad-based agreement can set the stage for some serious change, and thus compensate for another Friday without Snap.

OBEDIENCE SCHOOL

Recognizing that housing codes are minimalist criteria and not optimal goals, the concept of "landlord school" (kind of like traffic school) is growing in popularity. If building owners had a better understanding of property management and tenant relations, housing code violations would not be epidemic throughout the City. To explore the concept, a trial program has been established that targets property owners who receive City money for housing welfare recipients. In March, Tenderloin residential hotel owners will benefit from the first such training seminar. Mission District hotel owners will receive their own training soon thereafter.

A guiding principle of the program is to enable landlords and tenants to work together in developing their own viable private policies, one building at a time. Such policies would give people the opportunity to create societies inside their buildings that empower them to relate better to the societies outside as well. The training will outline the value of qualified personnel, tenants associations, on-site activities and linkages with neighborhood associations and agencies. These management tools, commonly used in high-income residences and non-profit properties, are rarely found in for-profit, low-income dwellings.

DOG HOUSED

I wish our Mayor would drop his plans mandating homeless welfare recipients out of the public eye and into vacant for-profit hotels — and instead develop plans mandating quality affordable housing. Right now, there are only a handful of residential hotels in this City that are affordable and managed well — and they are burdened with painfully long waiting lists. When good exits to homelessness exist, people use them.

Even Clinton's Task Force on Homelessness recently concluded that homelessness is not solely about people's private policies on drugs and alcohol, which interfere with public life; but primarily about public policies on jobs and housing pushing people to the brink in their private lives.

Estimating that over 6,000,000 people lacked shelter in the late 1980s, a figure 10 times higher than that of the previous Administration, Clinton's Task Force believes that poverty and misallocated resources cause this national nightmare. As an example, the Task Force noted that wealthy homeowners receive more in housing subsidies than do low-income people. In 1993, the interest deduction on home mortgages cost the government \$41 billion — nearly \$35 billion to folks earning over \$50,000 a year.

Clinton's Task Force does not call for ending those subsidies, but rather aggressively developing more affordable housing for low-income people.

Some day, this may mean good news for the Mission, which — by federal standards — is a low-income neighborhood. (The average income here is 54% the average Citywide.) Housing is considered affordable when it is priced at 30% of a family's income, but only a minority of Mission residents live in such housing. We do need more affordable housing.

But if you decide to organize a meeting about this important public policy, please do Snap and I a favor — and don't schedule it on a Friday. Thanks ...



MISSION SCHOOLS STILL AT RISK

Moscone School and Las Americas Children's Center seemed to have escaped the wrecker's ball earlier in the month; but at press time, they remain threatened with demolition, despite a growing outcry from parents, teachers and community residents.

A plan by Superintendent of Schools Bill Rojas would level both facilities located at Treat and 20th Streets as well as earthquake-damaged and abandoned John O'Connell Technical High School at 21st and Harrison.

Under this plan Moscone/Las Americas, as well as Mission Education Center (MEC) a school for newcomers to the United States, now located in Noc Valley, would be rebuilt at the old O'Connell site; and a brand new O'Connell would be erected at Moscone/Las Americas's current site. Called the Teardown Plan by opponents, this ambitious construction program was originally supposed to be cost-effective, but in School District documents prepared to promote the passage of a school bond measure on next June's ballot, the price tag is put at \$5 million.

Last fall, when Rojas' plan ran into fierce opposition from furious parents and educators, the Board of Education was forced to appoint an ad hoc committee to come up with options for the future of the schools in question. This committee was composed of one representative from each of the four schools and three representatives from the community.

On February 17th this group, called the Ad Hoc Committee on Mission Schools, submitted three alternatives to the Board of Education's Building and Grounds Committee. Not surprisingly, all three proposals left Moscone/Las Americas intact. One alternative was simply to leave things as they are; a second called for moving MEC to the 21st and Harrison Street site and O'Connell to the abandoned Mission Armory; a third proposal also moved MEC to 21st and Harrison but put O'Connell at the vacant Best Foods Building at Mariposa and Bryant.

Leeland Yee, President of the Board of

Education, then announced he was unilaterally adding a fourth option for consideration. This fourth option turned out to be the Teardown Plan originally put forth by Rojas. Moscone and Las Americas are once again on the chopping block.

Meanwhile, a petition with the heading "Don't Destroy Las Americas And George Moscone! We Will Not Be Moved!" is being circulated throughout the Mission and, at press time, had already collected over 600 signatures. Rojas is reportedly irate over the petition and has chewed out some school administrators for letting things get out of control.

Rojas has good reason to be concerned about the fight over the fate of the Mission schools; it is beginning to jeopardize support for the \$95 million bond initiative which is now scheduled for the June ballot and requires approval by two-thirds of the voters. In last November's election, the public proved surprisingly tight-fisted, voting down, among other things, three benefit packages for the police. Before this the cops had traditionally gotten almost everything they'd put before the voters.

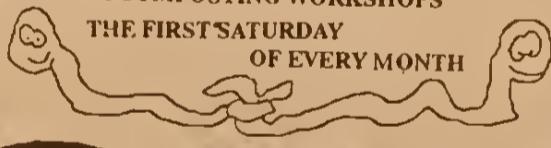
In June's election, voters will be asked to decide on full police staffing, keeping branch libraries open and the school bond. Despite the motherhood-and-apple-pie nature of these issues, they are all big-ticket items, and each will need a well-coordinated campaign to overcome a mood of fiscal conservatism in the electorate. A continuing controversy regarding Mission schools could therefore wound the school bond campaign enough to deny it the margin of victory.

The next battle between the teardown and the stay-put forces will be at a public meeting at 9 a.m. on March 19. The location, either Horace Mann Middle School or Cesar Chavez School, was undetermined at press time. At this meeting, architectural drawings of all four options will be available for review and comment.

Victor Miller

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A STEP FORWARD AT MISSION HIGH

by Anna Murillo

In mid-December, over 500 Mission High School students organized a walkout and took to the streets to demand that Raza studies courses be offered at Mission High. The marchers went up Mission Street to the school District's Headquarters on Van Ness Avenue. The walkout was planned and organized by the students. With the support of San Francisco State University (SFSU) students, the large group had an under-control and successful walkout.

It has been rumored that a Latino security guard had put the students up to it. This well-loved and respected staff person, Eddie Alicea, was promptly suspended. Everyone is waiting for his upcoming court trial to prove that he is not guilty.

In the School Board meeting on January 14th, Mission students typed a list of demands for the school and the Board. Their most important demand was the funding and augmenting of bilingual and bicultural education (including a Raza studies program). Other demands were smaller classroom sizes, job training courses, more up-to-date texts and materials, more supportive counselors and a larger number of ethnic teachers (reflecting the ethnic make-up of the students).

In attempt to remedy the situation, a special Board of Education meeting was held at Mission High. Of the 60-some people who attended this two-hour meeting, there were School Board officials, Mission High administrators, parents and students. The Board is proposing ethnic studies classes, an expanded college-prep program and a series of job-training courses held on Saturdays that would start this semester.

Artie Torres, the president of Mission's Latino Club (which played a big part in organizing the walkout), spoke at the meeting, saying that it was not a good idea to hold the new classes before or after school. "It's too hard to wake up early for some kids; others have jobs after school," he said.

Greg Bender, a coordinator of high-school operations, said that this "zero period" (early morning and after school) schedule would not be permanent.

David Bui, a senior at Mission, asked that this program include the philosophies and "values of each culture being taught, not just the facts and figures. In my opinion, this would help the students better understand the culture, by teaching them the traditions and values, not just pumping them with boring dates and events."

The School District will collaborate with SFSU so the ethnic studies program would enable the students to draw on the University's academic resources. It is interesting that the same school whose students supported Mission's walkout will also be working closely with the high school.

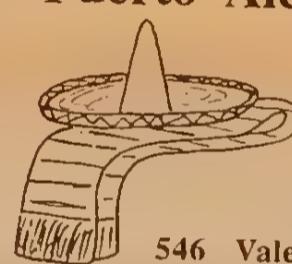
In support of this partnership, School Board member Angie Fa said, "An incredible model [for high-school ethnic studies] could be created for the whole school district and the state."

Mission High's own principal, Patricia Aramendia said: "The kids had legitimate complaints"; and coordinator Greg Bender stated: "I hope this is not a flash in the pan but something we can build on in years to come."

Ana Maria Murillo is a 17-year-old freelance writer graduating from Lowell High.

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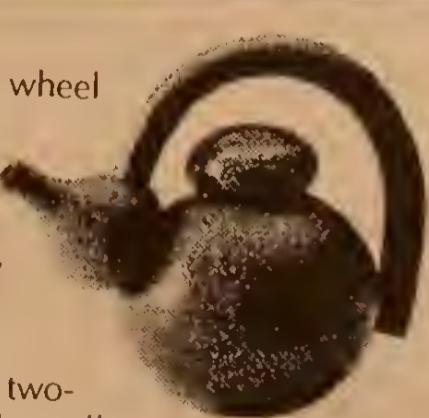
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New Works Page

ARTS AND LETTERS

THE WORKS IN THIS ISSUE HONOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, MARCH 8.

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Tonight I heard you speak
Amonita Balajadia,
Filipina Comfort Woman
addressing an audience
fifty years and a different
language away.

Lola Amonita, I heard your voice quiver
as you told us how the Japanese soldier
called out to you as you washed clothes
on the riverbank in Iloilo
and when you tried to ignore him,
how he and three other soldiers
snatched you up and beat you
brought you to the camp
and knifed you with their cocks,
again and again, they did not stop
to ask you if it hurt. You, a girl
of fourteen, given a rifle by your father
at the age of fourteen, and told to use it
if the soldiers came to the house
You, a girl of fourteen, who watched
your ten year old sister die in the name
of war, your father hung from a tree
in the marketplace, strung up
and beaten by the soldiers.
You, who escaped in the middle
of the night from the "comfort house",
labeled crazy by your mother
for the following three months
because you kept clawing at your skin,
when she tried to bathe you, screaming
"no sir! no, sir!" again and again.

Lola Amonita, I hear in your voice
the silence of my mother, Maria Gloria
and the silence of her younger sisters:
Maria Charing
Maria Iluminada
Maria Natividad
Maria Beatrice
Maria Mercedes
In their silence I remember
how they used to sleep each night
in the hidden cave in the backyard,
hiding from the Japanese soldiers
how they used to fold damp laundry
in the middle of the night, too
petrified to fall asleep. I remember
Aunt Lumie reaching her hand
into the basket of wash
and a snake biting her wrist
in defense. She could not cry out.

I hear in your voice the refusal
of your son to speak to you
I hear in your voice the hoss
who fired you, who would not let you
clean her house anymore, "you
should be ashamed, you
made a mistake in telling
your fifty year secret, you old woman,
you should have stayed silent
until you died."

I hear you amidst the villagers
in the marketplace where
you go to sell your vegetables,
the people call you *puta, landi*,
label you whore and walk away.

I hear you, Lola Amonita,
sweet eyes and wrinkled face
I hear you, fifty years later
in your exhausted body
I hear you, and it is like
the words my mother thinks
I never listen to: You don't
know how lucky you are.
I hear you and your sisters
from Korea, Philippines
China, Taiwan, Japan, Borneo,
Thailand and Indonesia
a crescendo of women
armed with secrets and
voices like glistening knives.

—ARLENE BIALA

SHADES OF MOONSHINE

(for International Women's Day, 1989)

In heavenly wonder I read the gates
of laughter.
The mind which rids itself from
danger.
Oh bless the souls of the unworthy.
Emotions cause disasterly deeds,
with oriental contributions
from those of whom the clouds
are gone.
Her, her maiden name forgotten, at
one time in her prime she divorced
a ripe livery stable painted with
obnoxious colors from a dream
A blue devil rising from colored steam
How he/she does most things is inconceivable.
Sternly arranged, it took my fancy,
that little raincoat in its cage.

—PIAF AZUL,
age 8 1/2

"WHEN THE LIGHT HITS..."

When the light hits
the rocks bloom, their
ruddy colors imitating animals
even as we, the people, do,

when, in our sleep we approach
the laughter of animals, the
brightness of the moon. She
appears now as lover, now

as mother, teaching us to sing,
to plant, the spacious joys of
reverie (fear of footsteps in
the dark, the storm cellar,

language of the disappeared) the web
the basket the jug the hoe the harvest.

—JEFF CONANT

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, MARCH 8

A TORN LOTTERY TICKET ON SIDEWALK —that's my mother. She's more than that, of course, being the working class hero that I now see her as, and not as the middle-class housewife I often hated as a teenager. I exaggerate, for I only mean that I saw no other oppressor than she during the short years that I felt incarcerated as a captive teenager in the American nuclear family prison.

I have my VCR mind going on one particular mother-daughter scene that plays differently as we recall it. I was a teenager eluding my mother and her domestic demands for such depressing activities as dishwashing. She was a woman obviously not finding paradise in Walnut Creek domesticity. It was actually Pleasant Hill of the 1950s, an isolated cluster of no down payment, newly-built tract homes. Only my mother knows the balance in the blend of how much was duty to prepare a daughter for her presumed future adulthood role, and how much was to ease her own domestic burden.

One day she tracked me down at the twins' house, a place I'd usually rather be than anywhere else. Since almost all the houses in Pleasant Hill were essentially the same size and floor plan in those early subdivision years, it was the people rather than the place. I liked their family plan better than my own. The patriarch was absent most of the time, sacrificing himself for the family with the hard life of an independent trucker. Their mother seemed happy enough, centered on her daughters and lenient toward them. Their mother was at least a decade older than mine and was certainly not pregnant like mine, and not embarked on a second marriage or having two more children like she was.

The twins' house was like a still life, lethargic and half-dead. I liked being alive in their half-dead house better than my own. No accounting for taste. Mary was really quiet, as she took up sleeping a lot as a dieting method. The method was effective, keeping her the more slender twin. Margaret, a little bigger by birth,

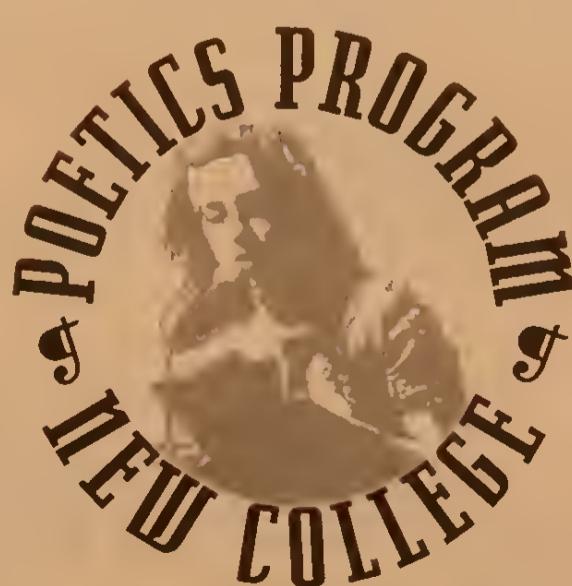
stayed a little bigger by being awake more hours. Margaret dieted too and many people couldn't tell them apart. The twins had some chores, and had to do dishes too, but how many dishes do two ladylike anorexic twins make? Not many, and I think their mother was filling her time with extended vacuuming. There was still plenty of time for the twins and I to make sounds of our choice, radio music and boy-girl banal conversation.

One particular day my mother phoned with the intention of dislodging me from my sanctuary. She set out for their house to bring home the errant 14 year old to do something like the dishes. She caught up with me on a suburban street where I must have been headed toward an alternate sanctuary. She began berating me, demanding that I return home to the chore. Unusually frustrated and angry, she seemed about to hit me. I remember putting up my hands to ward off a blow, which was probably openhanded.

What happened next, the videocamera uninvented, will always be remembered differently by the only two people involved, my mother and myself. She was hugely pregnant with the 2nd child of her 2nd marriage. If there were a tape, like in the Rodney King case, I believe the viewer would see a woman raise her open hand to slap a younger woman. The second person, a girl really, a tall 14 year old, raises her hands while her body contracts. Next, the viewer would see the older, tall but not quite as tall, obviously pregnant woman fall to the ground. I know I only raised a hand to fend off her angry aggression, and that she lost her balance from being in an advanced state of pregnancy. She thought I pushed her. She didn't usually strike me, and the taboo against active resistance toward the mother was firmly in place. She believed I pushed her and I knew I hadn't, and thus it registered on our brain VCRs.

This incident is all long smoothed-over with a lifetime-bonding of mutual affection and reliance.

—MURRAY



MFA IN POETICS & WRITING / MA IN POETICS
BA IN HUMANITIES WITH POETICS EMPHASIS

YEAR ROUND CORE FACULTY
Tom Clark
Adam Cornford
Gloria Frym
Lyn Hejinian
David Meltzer

New
College
of
CALIFORNIA

CONTRIBUTORS: Piaf Azul is a resident of the Mission. Arlene Biala is New College Admissions Director. Jeff Conant, Murray, and Hoa Nguyen are students at the New College of California on Valencia Street.

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOMED. Send graphics, poetry, and short prose to: New Works Page, 766 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94110. Send works on "Streets" by March 14, send works on "Work" by April 14. Funded by a generous grant from the New College of California.

BIOSCIENCE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

even Unobskey that the Bioscience Zone is not only crackpot economics but politically undoable. Most people have already gotten that message loud and clear. As Judy West, a live/work space advocate and NEMIZ resident said at a hearing: "I'm almost embarrassed to be here. Why are we still talking about this?"

The other mover and shaker behind the Bioscience plot, economist Kent Sims, once a high-profile player in the Jordan Administration, has now disappeared so completely you almost half expect to see his picture on a milk carton. Sims, who now works for the Redevelopment Agency, made a heavy-handed pitch for Bioscience last spring. He recommended what amounted to abandoning the environmental regulation of any Bioscience firm willing to relocate in the NEMIZ. The Redevelopment Agency has since barred Sims from making any public statement about the matter.

There are other indications that Jordan Administration is distancing itself from the Bioscience notion. In January Deputy Mayor Jim Wonderman told a Mission Police Community Relations meeting, "There appears to be support for the community-based plan ... as for the Biotech zone, don't count on it." This statement was made a year after Jordan Administration officials, including the now missing-in-action Kent Sims, lashed out at members of the Mayor's Mission Task Force for promoting the very same community plan. The immediate outcome of this fight was the purging of the Task Force in April 1993. Ousted Task Force members, who had worked on their plan for nearly two years, remained together under the name the "Working Group" and organized the core opposition to the Bioscience forces. This set in motion the political battle for the NEMIZ that is still going on but, judging from Wonderman's statement, it appears the Working Group has come out on top.

An even stronger indication that Bioscience has hit the dust is the apparent ease with which Walden House, a noted substance-abuse counseling organization, is proceeding with its plans for a 150-bed detox center in the heart of the NEMIZ at 17th and Alabama Streets.

The Jordan camp is actually endorsing this

project, a policy in sharp contradiction to the way things were less than a year ago. As late as August last year, developers of live/work space projects in the NEMIZ encountered an endless number of delays and roadblocks at the Planning Department, and although Department spokesmen denied it, an informal moratorium on non-Bioscience projects was in effect.

This was an especially pernicious policy since while the Bioscience Zone was only a half-formed scheme, the NEMIZ was and is the City's center of live/work economic vitality. Reality was being sacrificed to feed the illusion; it was high-tech superstition. When a key piece of NEMIZ real estate, the Best Foods Building at Bryant and Mariposa, looked like it was going to be sold, Unobskey let the potential buyers know he would look unfavorably on any use of the site that was not Bioscience-related. This is not the way to spark development and create jobs. For whatever reason, the deal never went through and the Best Foods site remains an entire block of empty space.

While we can expect the Bioscience malarkey to be spread around for another couple of months, the plan is essentially dead. Any assessment of the damage this whole ugly business has inflicted upon the Mission community should include the stalled or torpedoed projects of legitimate small-scale developers and the loss of badly needed jobs for Mission residents. And although activists have good cause to celebrate the solidarity of diverse segments of the Mission against a cartoonish economic nostrum, those same diverse segments have yet to come together in favor of something, which was the whole point of those long meetings about the NEMIZ that began back in 1991.

The process of addressing the real and urgent concerns of our community divided as it is by culture, race and economic circumstances has been ill-served by this detour into the realm of Bioscience fiction. It remains astonishing that a small cabal of political appointees and bureaucrats hyped up on their own rhetoric could have run amuck in our neighborhood for as long as they did; but as long as the Mission fails to find a unified voice of its own, we remain vulnerable to scams and schemers.

Neighborhood BEAT

KNOCKED UP ENDING



This is the last weekend to see "Knocked Up," a one-act Commedia dell'Arte about a woman's right to choose. The play is specifically aimed at teens and young adults but will delight audiences of all ages.

A classic Commedia dell'Arte, "Knocked Up" uses traditional Italian Renaissance costumes, masks and hilarious predicaments while addressing a contemporary social issue: a woman's right to choose when and if she wants to be a mother. The plot involves a magic comet which passes and makes all men preg-

nant — after the head honcho declares abortion illegal. The play comically portrays the men's response to their predicament.

Parents should be warned that the play uses explicit sexual language and is unequivocally pro-choice.

The San Francisco Mime Troupe performs "Knocked Up" March 5 and 6, 2 p.m., at Teatro Mission, Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St. Tickets are on sale at the door, \$5 for adults and \$3 for those under 18.

JOHN ZORN LIVE

Avante-garde saxophonist John Zorn, whose music has run the gamut from bebop to hardcore to arrangements of Ennio Morricone's soundtracks, brings his Klezmir-influenced group Masada to Radio Valencia. He'll be blowing the house down from March 12 through 15, accompanied by Ben Goldberg

on Clarinet, Trevor Dunn on bass and Kenny Wollesen on drums. The \$10 admission is a good gamble that this highly charged improviser and composer will bring outrageous sounds to your ears. Shows start at 8:30 p.m. Radio Valencia is at 1199 Valencia St. For more information, call 826-1199.

FREE TREES!

Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF), one of the nation's leading urban tree-planting groups, has received two government contracts to plant 1,800 trees in San Francisco in 1994 at no cost to the communities in which they are planted.

Contracts from the San Francisco Department of Public Works and the state Department of Resources will target some of the city's least-leaved neighborhoods, and will help mitigate the impact of several transportation improvement projects. The funding will also help Friends of the Urban Forest achieve its goal of planting 2,500 trees in 1994 — the best year ever for the group.

The \$200,000 Department of Public Works contract will fund the planting of 900 trees at no cost in several neighborhoods, including the Mission, Bayview, Hunters Point, Crocker Amazon, Visitation Valley, Portola Valley, the Sunset and the Richmond.

The funding marks the most significant government FUF has received in its 14 year history, but it is not the first time the nonprofit tree group has worked with government agencies. Previous partnerships have combined government support with community involvement and have helped Friends of the Urban Forest find ways to stretch limited tree-planting dollars.

Residents who participate in the free tree plantings are helping to beautify San Francisco, build strong communities and combat global warming. They're also increasing the value of their homes. A tree lined street can add as much as 15% to home value, according

to real estate experts.

For more information, call Friends of the Urban Forest at 543-5000.

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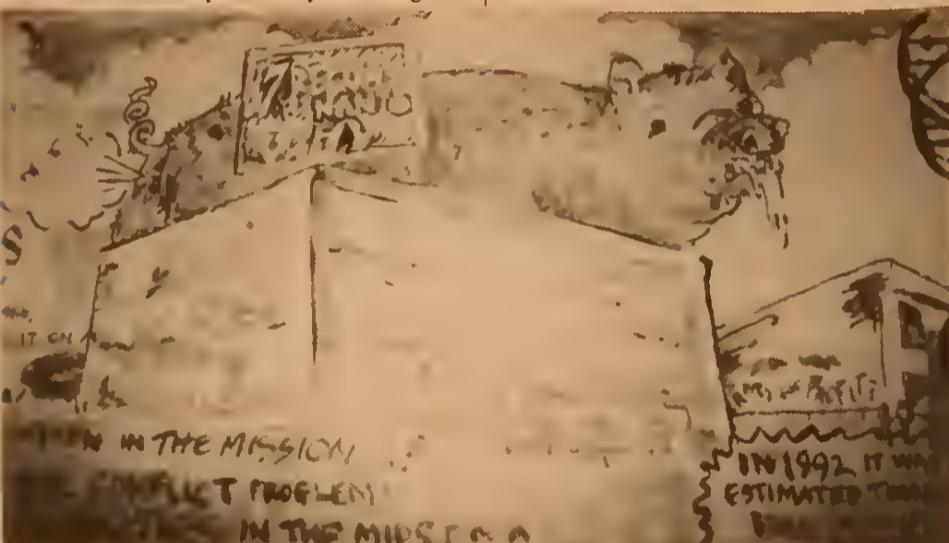
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For more information call: Lucy Pineda at Mission Housing Development @ (415) 864-6432.



Gonzo Artist Mike Mosher saw the Bioscience Zone as the home of giant flatulent pigs in part of an enormous cartoon mural displayed last year at ATA. Photo by Eugene Kettner.

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GANGSPEAK

Gang members, this is your column.
This is your voice.

What's good about being in a gang?
What's bad? Why and how did you become a gang member? Have you thought about leaving? Why? What would you say to someone leaving a gang or joining one?

What would you like to say to the police,

the community and your family?

This column can be used as a place for members of different gangs to work for peace between themselves. This column cannot be used to promote violence.

This is your chance to speak out. Material can be submitted anonymously — you don't

have to identify yourself.

Send your words, poems, rap songs and art work to Deanne Berger-Moudgil, Column Editor, GangSpeak, c/o El Tecolote, P.O. Box 40037, S.F. 94140, or call Deanne's pager: (415) 227-6338.



Gun Down

By E.C. Writer

Gun down, gun down, gun down,
Every time you come around.
Chances are you could get,
Gun down, gun down, gun down.

Every time you get a surprise,
Then you open your big eyes.
You think you got the right,
To live your lovely life.

But you get instead gun down,
Gun down, gun down, gun down.

Coming around this stinking town,
You get the idea to have,
A really a good time.
But they let you down,
They don't give you a chance,
To make yourself feel fine.

You better bring a knife,
You better bring a gun.
You better not bring your girl,
If you want to have some fun.

Cause someone will be standing,
Not even understanding,
Not even giving you a chance
To come out alive with your life.

But you get instead gun down,
Gun down, gun down, gun down.

Every time you say hello,
There they go again and again,
Gun down, gun down, gun down.

Let's get out of town,
Before we get gun down.
Gun down.

Poem by Emilio C., the best poem writer in the world of poems.

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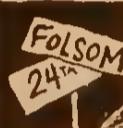
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CARNAVAL COUNTDOWN

BY C.M. COLLINS

MEMORIAL
SUNDAY
1994



Let's welcome back our Carnaval quest seekers whose journey took them to the motherlands of the several "greatest shows on earth." Of particular note: MECA's Roberto Hernandez, Marcus Gordon, plus Dennis Broughton-and Mission Neighborhood Center's Sam Ruiz and Jake Pavlovsky did 10 days in Rio de Janeiro meeting with Carnaval and tourism officials on behalf of our event. Meanwhile, our KGO-TV veejay tour guide Carmen de Arce was hangin with Timbalada and Olodum further up the coast in Salvador, Bahia. Both cities boast

intense carnaval cultures, very dependent on tourism, and Salvador's 20,000 hotel rooms have been selling out, while Rio's have not. Perhaps it's time for Rio to explore the cross

cultural creativity of San Francisco's "greatest multicultural show ever celebrated" and catch their world soccer team compete nearby as well. The Brazilians are coming.

Meanwhile in Trinidad, Suzanne Ludlum (*All Ah We*), Stephen Tiffeson (*Mas Maker Massive*) and many others were being feted and pumped for info about our

parade. Suzanne (aka *dj Sweetwaist*) was subject of several TV interviews.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: The first global invitational King & Queen contest in Trinidad begins there September 19, 1994. We're talkin \$150,000 in prize money plus \$500 per costume appearance fee. *Carnival Oakland -Cariyama* will be selecting the two Bay Area entries the weekend before the parade on Saturday May 21, at Mosswood Park with winners to receive air fare. A bateria and Steel Pan competition will also take place (Info: Jackie Artman 510/655-4736)Coming up quick is our own April 1, King and Queen contest at *Bahia Tropical* Become a permanent part of C'SF history and glory, to enter call Marcus at MECA 826-1401.) C'SF-93 Brazilian Champ, *Escola Nova de Samba* will be returning to the *Ethnic Dance Festival* in June with Urubo & Low. Speaking of success, *Escola's* co-founder Chalo Edwardo hopes to help revitalize music in our troubled schools by working with the

REMO whose new line of *World Percussion Brazilian Instruments* is just out and includes three with Chalo's signature endorsement

Bahia Tropical / Market Franklin is the best place to connect with Carnaval rhythms and get more info on parade participation. Club owner Jackson, is working with Chalo and others to create a new all-star performance company---*Rio Fantastico* which plans to debut 4/1 at *Cowell Theater*.... Last chance to see the *Bolivian Carnaval Exhibition* at Fort Mason's SF Craft & Folk Art Museum. closes 3/6.



CARNAVAL'S BIG FOUR IN '94
{Clockwise from top} Mas by Trinidad's Peter Minshall; Trinidadians own the giant costume category--so there; One of hundreds of "Morenos" in Oruro, Bolivia a folkloric spectacular; Rio's Sambodromo show has no rivals but the magic might be fading; From Bahia, *Olodum* hopes to become Brazil's greatest Carnaval export; Bolivian devils representing two of seven deadly sins; *Muzenza* considers Bob Marley a great prophet of the day like many Bahia Carnaval groups; C'SF's own *Consesau Damasceno* dancing with *Muzenza*.



CATHARSIS ON VALENCIA STREET

by Murray Paskin

Passing through the doors of Catharsis Furniture feels a bit like Alice going through the looking glass. From the bustling storefront businesses selling soup to nuts on Valencia street near 17th, you are suddenly transported into an atmosphere of rarefied artistic sensibility.

The interior is a post-modern aesthetic dream. Everywhere you look, walls, ceilings, alcoves, and just empty corners combine metal, wood, and sculpted plaster in relief, tastefully juxtaposed and dynamically patterned. It's an industrial-style decor that revels in the beauty found in structural elements and their textures, apart from whatever function they may perform. Openly displayed rivets, nails and screws become enhancements, as does the bare concrete floor which gives the space a touch of elegant sparseness. Even the sound of a buzz saw from the back adds a musical note to the atmosphere.

It's a perfect setting for the furniture's unique artistry. Inventively placed diagonals fascinate with the unexpected angles they create, while one or two curves musically bring relief by breaking the line. At the same time, the variety of materials — unfinished wood, metal, copper, fur — and different colored stains and washes in a single piece create a myriad of unusually rich but subtle colors and textures.

An all-in-one bookcase, magazine rack and stereo stand consists of those stunning angles, with a combination of metal, dark-finished and unfinished wood.

Beauty and simplicity stand out in a kitchen shelf rack, open on four sides. Five aluminum shelves attach to vertical support posts of unfinished wood. A blond-finished wooden drawer, framed by a metal border with exposed rivets, sits at the bottom while an eye-hook serving as the drawer handle provides a lovely finishing touch.

You might expect to see Catharsis on Union street, or in an inner-city neighborhood slated for gentrification. Certainly not on Valencia street between a used appliance store and Harrington's, that supermarket of used furniture. But it's exactly that quality of the unexpected that gives the Mission its appeal

and has made it one of San Francisco's showplaces. Rather than displacing the traditional, it incorporates innovation into an existing landscape.

Catharsis's owner, Michael O'Connor, graduate of UC Berkeley's architecture school, hip-hop events promoter, community activist, and designer and builder of the furniture he sells, says of his work, "I try to design to last over time. A lot of classic lines I see, lines from different cultures that have succeeded over long periods of time, have that characteristic.

"Most of my work is commissioned. The designs vary in complexity. Some people give me free rein, allowing me to design creative and unique pieces. Others want something straightforward. Practical considerations influence the design: measurements, budget, specific needs. I had a small and inflexible budget for a table stool I designed for a fast-food Mexican eatery. But in a way, I like those kinds of restraints. It challenges and stretches my creativity." The result of that challenge was a stunning compact stool, with his characteristic series of diagonals with one curve and a combination of deep brown and cherrystains.

Another feature that makes Catharsis unique is that the whole operation — showroom, workshop, office-lounge — is a storefront right off the street. It harks back to a tradition virtually gone from our cities: the woodworking shop as part of the community. In our day, furniture builders are hidden away in lofts and studios in industrial areas. Designers rarely build the furniture and are not generally accessible to the public.

O'Connor began designing furniture at UC Berkeley. "The architects I respected from the last 100 years were also proficient in furniture design. That led me to believe there was a lot to be learned there. I still want to do architecture at some point. I didn't go into it immediately because I felt disappointed in the field as practiced today. There's a lack of participation in the community, in healthy growth of cities, how buildings relate to them, how open space relates to them."

He realized a dream in more ways than one when he opened his store in July 1992. "I feel most comfortable in small business. I like



Architect and furniture mogul Michael O'Connor

Photo by Eugene Kettner

the idea of no middleman and that direct contact with people I design and build for. I hope the things I do here — the experiments with design, materials, and color — will allow me to make better houses when I become an architect."

He takes pride in his closeness to the street. It reflects his intense involvement that sees him initiating community activity year round. A shining example is the Mural Project in Clarion Alley, a street that runs from Mission to Valencia between 17th and 18th streets. Not since Balmy Alley, on which it is modeled, has an art project of that scale taken place in the City.

"I always enjoyed the walk through there. I liked the feel of the space and thought it would be perfect for a newer style of mural art. Rigo, a Clarion Alley resident and professional muralist who's represented in Balmy Alley, had also been thinking of such a project. So we

began planning. Through my involvement with hip-hop culture, I had become friends with a number of the finer spray can artists. I brought them into the project. Rigo brought Latino and other artists of varying styles. We wanted a mix that would represent the neighborhood, as opposed to Balmy Alley, which represents pure Latino."

"I'm also interested in affordable urban housing. There are a number of those kinds of projects happening, and I'd like to participate in them at some point."

I asked him how he finds the energy for all these different activities.

"Part of me is builder, part of me is thinker. My ideal architect mentality is part administrator, part business, part structured, part artistic, part abstract, part loose. This comes naturally to me. I feel comfortable practicing this."

HAS-BEANS

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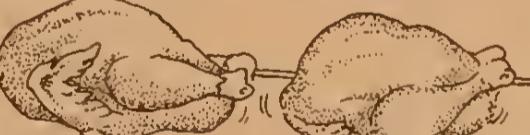
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MEET BOBBY GOLD

By Alana Herron

If you haven't heard of him, you might have seen him far at the end of the corridor in Mission Market, on 22nd and Mission. Under the glass countertop of his store, there are photos of celebrities local and worldwide. You can see him in many of them, hanging around comfortably with numerous luminaries. At one end of the counter, he is shown wearing a formal suit and posing next to Diane Feinstein. At the other end, he and James Brown are smiling widely.

If you have talked to him, he will tell you that he is not just Bobby Gold, the man who sells candy, hot dogs and other party foods. He is a native San Franciscan with Hispanic and Jewish blood and a long history in the entertainment industry. Currently, he works as a clown for hire, "Bobby the Clown."

On the counter there are stacks of little blue flyers with a sketch of him in his token oversized patchwork suit, great big bow tie, star-studded shoes, and sparkling hat. The flyers advertise that he provides "complete party planning supplies and catering." And, he says, he has worked at all sorts of parties. "I've done the Christmas party for BART. I've been at the company picnic for Pacific Bell. I've done lots of parties." His specialty? "I specialized in kids parties" because I love being with the kids," he says. He has entertained in every city in the Bay Area; and at each party, he teaches the kids something. "I teach kids to be good people. Some clowns are hypocrites and they don't like kids, but not me."

Bobby says he teaches the same things, and in the same way, he taught his own daughter, Natasha. "I told her to tell everyone she was Italian, Spanish, Jewish, a little bit of everything, so she wouldn't be prejudiced." He also teaches kids to be playful in a kind and creative way. As he used to play with his daughter, Bobby the Clown — in his own words — "destroys the English language. I call their knees 'ka-nees.' I call their shoes their 'shufuses.' They know exactly what I mean."

But, getting the kids to have love and respect at parties is not always easy, he says. "I really don't like that at the parties the violence comes out of the kids, especially when there are pinatas. At one party this little kid jumped on my shoulders and smushed my hat, and it made me mad. It's a really nice, expensive hat. It's that sort of stuff I wouldn't be doing with them, but they like it, and I'm getting paid to be there."

Forty-four-year-old Bobby got involved in the entertainment industry in December 1976. He explains: "This big black guy, Johnny Silver, closed down an all-black club, the Ghetto Club, because it was changing into a white club; and Silver kept the place going...the DJ, and all. When it changed and Silver left, someone said, 'The place was fab, no Silver, but now we've got the gold.' That's how I became Bobby Gold."

Since 1977, Bobby Gold, as himself and as Bobby the Clown, has had the opportunity to work with all sorts of performers, many of whom he has pictures of. "I have over 200 pictures of celebrities," he says. At the time, he had a janitorial service, which he sold to start



Gold and brown: Bobby Gold with James Brown

up an entertainment business, featuring singers, belly dancers and strippers. During those years, Bobby discovered his real calling, "bartending," and opened and closed a restaurant called the Lobster Tub. "At the time, I didn't know that much about seafood." (Now, thanks to the fact that his store in the Mission Market is right across from a seafood vendor, he knows a lot.) His experience in

entertainment has lead him to work as a ring supervisor for Ringside Promoters, to bring concerts to Richmond and to work in Los Angeles.

These days, his primary concern is local politics. "I want to clean up the Mission. The drugs, the crime, and the gang stuff are disgusting. It used to be clean, but lately it has gotten so bad: BART, the streets, everything."



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LOYALTY

by Jacqueline Elizabeth Letalien

I used to be that a loyalty oath had to be signed to get a job, to go to college. Once signed, this loyalty oath bound the signator not to commit subversive acts against, not to overthrow, the government of the United States. This oath was the last vestige of the era of McCarthyism and the House UnAmerican Activities Committee. It is this pledge to loyalty that forced hundreds of artists to be silent, to submit, to have no livelihood.

Those of us subversives who signed pledges of loyalty to the national government knew we would not hesitate to break an unjust oath demanded without integrity, even if it meant being derided for disloyalty. To do anything else would have allowed Jim Crow laws to stand, beatings of queers to continue, the Vietnam war to go on killing, women to go on dying from back alley abortions and HUAC to keep on censoring artists.

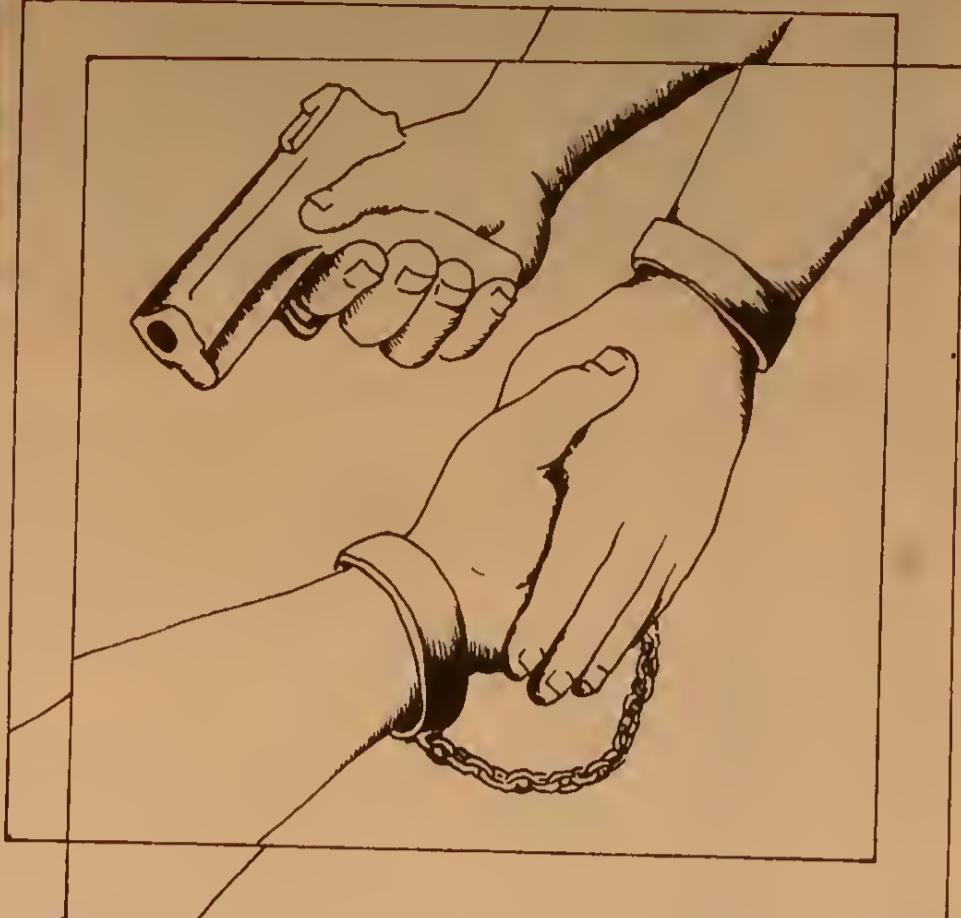
Loyalty is a doctrine that ensures the sovereignty of patriarchal institutions. Loyalty sounds a lot like royalty. The similarity of words is not incidental. Royalty is a belief in the divine right of authority to be whatever it wants, as it pleases, without challenge. The divine right to rule demands submission. Loyalty to royalty requires the oppression, subjugation and objectification of other human beings. This sovereignty is reinforced by the phrase "loyalty to king and country." Any challenge to or difference from the dogmatic dictates of sovereign authority is deemed to be

disloyal. This compulsion for uniformity is borne of fear of the loss of power, loss of control. It has nothing to do with ethics, morality, justice.

It is loyalty that costs hundred of thousands (by now millions) of soldiers' lives in insane wars; my country right or wrong. It is loyalty that causes women to be silent about sexual harassment; my job right or wrong. Loyalty teaches children to be silent about incest; my parents right or wrong. It is loyalty to the company that keeps workers silent about the safety hazards in nuclear power plants. It is loyalty that keeps a dog "faithful" to a master even when she, he is beaten by that same master. It is loyalty that causes Serbians to massacre Bosnians.

Disloyalty has always been viewed by authoritarians as dangerous. It is. It is dangerous to the nation state, corporation, military, church, family, gang. In ancient myth Medusa was considered a dangerous woman. She was deemed subversive and disloyal because she had no compunction about turning heroes into stone. Patriarchal versions have left out the part that the only people who were turned to stone after looking upon her face were those whose hearts were without integrity.

Loyalty has become an insidious mechanism of population control. These are dangerous times we live in because there is little need for loyalty oaths. When such oaths do creep out from places like the National Endowment for the Arts, there is only a



Ginny 94

whimper of protest. The necessity to question authority has been suppressed. Advertising campaigns of indoctrinations solicit the consumer's loyalty to a brand name, idea, politician. There need be no truth or value in these; all that matters is that a uniform majority mind think prevail.

This prevents the rapturous harmony of being one with the whole, which is very much different than being uniform with the group. Uniformity from loyalty is not natural or righteous. It inhibits the evolution of new forms, prohibits the revolution of creativity and obstructs the devolution of corruption. Adrienne Rich writes in Women and Honor: "When relationships are determined by manipulation, by the need for control, they may possess a dreary, bickering kind of drama, but they cease to be interesting. They are repetitious; the shock of human possibility has

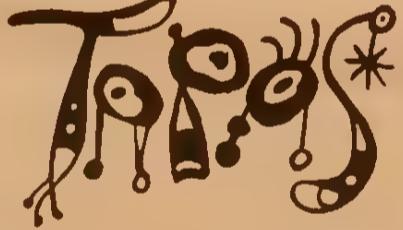
ceased to reverberate through them. The uniformity produced by loyalty deadens the vitality of spirit, encourages the abuse of power and prolongs the existence of malice.

Justice, integrity, ethics are the result of the painstaking, exciting unpredictability of fully participating in each moment. This chaotic process of living promotes the bonding of a people into culture. Each individual is responsible for her own well-being, and that well-being always contributes to the good of the whole. There is nothing safe about this anarchic, natural, organic genesis. It requires trust, strength, understanding of self; openness, courage, compassion with others. The process respects difference, honors disruption, inspires originality. It becomes apparent that there are endless possibilities of combinations, individuations of ways to be. This is frightening, disturbing; miraculous, exhilarating.

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MISSION DISTRICT CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 3

Porn Hurts - Diana Russell discusses her book Against Pornography: The Evidence of Harm, which challenges the view that pornography is harmless. Old Wives' Tales 1009 Valencia St., 8:00 p.m., \$3-10. Call 821-4676.

FRIDAY, MARCH 4

Poster Girl Kicks Butt - Sassy Girl: Memoirs of a Poster Girl Gone Awry is a semi-autobiographical play by Cheryl Marie Wade in which the heroine through poetry, monologue and song transforms herself from damaged goods to "The Woman with Juice". Brava! for Women in the Arts 2180 Bryant St., 8:00 p.m., \$10. Also on March 5 at 8 p.m. and March 6 at 2 p.m. Call 510-525-7960.

Rebellion in Chiapas - Eyewitness account of the turmoil in Mexico by Socialist

activist Jeff Mackler. Socialist Action Bookstore 3425 Army St., 8:00 p.m., \$1.50-\$3. Call 821-0458 or 821-0511.

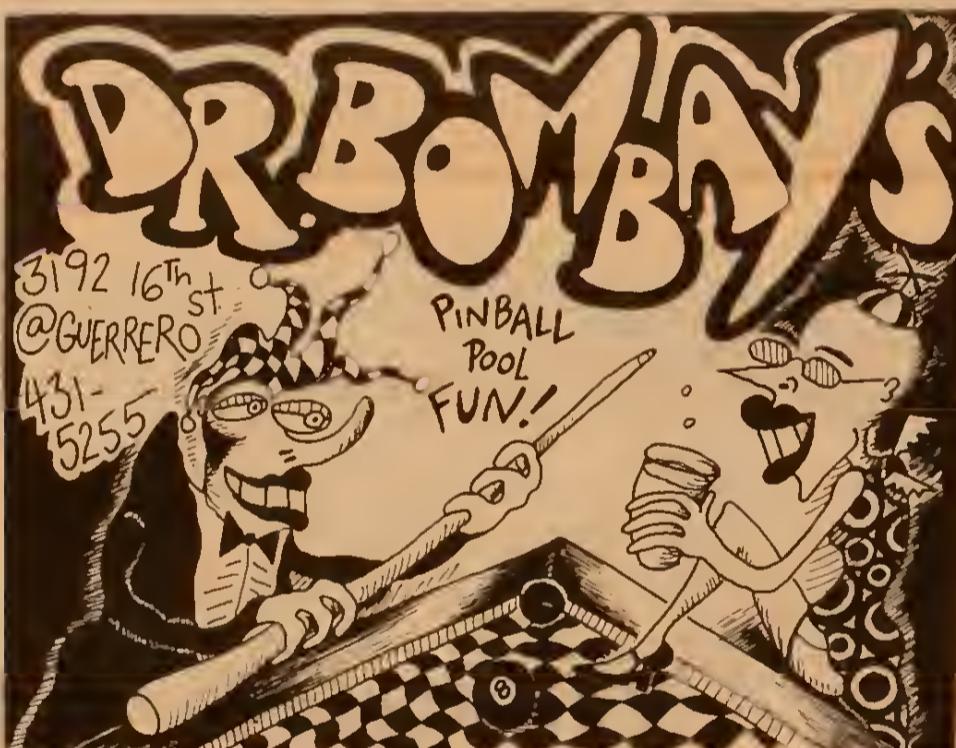
Women in the Global Economy - Kickoff night for a month long series of video and film documentaries on the labor struggles of women, especially women in the third world. Tonight's screenings include the U.S. premier of Speaking Out Before We Die, the testimony of women enslaved by the Japanese during WWII. A.T.A. 992 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$5.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

Falling Buds: Youth and War in Burma - A benefit screening of this documentary work in progress by local independent video producer Jeanne Hallacy. Proceeds will contribute to her return trip to Burma to complete production. 3238 21st St., 7:30 p.m., \$5-10. Call 695-8702.

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Crazy Mixed Up Kids - A series of short films about star impersonators and identity tortured folks who just can't decide who the hell they are. A.T.A. 992 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$5. Call 824-3890.

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

Song And Solidarity - A discussion on Trade Unions and the Media by Frank Martin del Campo of Local 790 AFL-CIO and labor journalist David Bacon, and song and music by Chilean guitarist Mauricio Bertin. Magarita's Restaurant 2833 24th St., 5 p.m., \$3-5. Call 826-5530.

Nineties Kids, Sixties Sounds - The San Francisco Children's Chorus sings songs of the sixties. Community Music Center 544 Capp St., 3 p.m., free. Call 647-6015.

Michelle These Are Words That Go Together Well - Also songs and performances in the first of a monthly series of events open to local women of talent, Michelle Night. Old Wives' Tales 1009 Valencia St., call 821-4676 to sign up or get there by 6:40 for the 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. show, \$3-10.

MONDAY, MARCH 7

Monday Martian Merriment - Four performance artists, count 'em, four, doing the unexpected. The Marsh 1062 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$6. Call 641-0235.

The Falling Dog Speaks - Got a favorite book, come by and read from it along with whoever else shows up. Falling Dog Cafe, 3591 20th St. 6:30 p.m., free.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

Dangerous Women - Elaine Leeder talks about her book on ILGWU labor leader Rosa Pesotta, The Gentle General and Candace Falk discusses her book Love, Anarchy and Emma Goldman. Old Wives' Tales 1009 Valencia St., 8:00 p.m., \$3-10. Call 821-4676.

Bill Bailey !!! - An activist and labor organizer for over 60 years, a veteran of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and author, Bill Bailey will speak about his autobiography, The Kid From Hoboken. Modern Times 888 Valencia St., 7:30 p.m., free.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

Amazon Sisters and the Runaway Giant - In the second installment of this series of films on women and the global economy, Sisters of the Amazon documents labor and environmental struggles in the Amazon and Dirty Business covers the closure of Green Giant in Watsonville and its flight to Mexico. A.T.A. 992 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$5. Call 824-3890.

FRIDAY, MARCH 11

PMS Potpourri - Post-Modern Sisters present films and videos on just about everything from Kurdistan travelogue to agoraphobia. A.T.A. 992 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$5. Call 824-3890.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

Doubtfire Biter Live - Kovacs, the puppet that took a chomp out of Mrs. Doubtfire makes a live appearance in a show for kids. Puppeteer Chris Pray will also read his new children's story The Fuzziest Bear. The Marsh 1062 Valencia St., 2 p.m., \$3. Call 641-0235.

Utter Otherness - The Other Cinema's Sister's Pictures series offers up a variety of flicks by fems all of which appear to be about being nuts or dead or both. A.T.A. 992 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$5. Call 824-3890.

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

Most Excellent Sounds - The Community Music Center's Pursuit of Excellence Concert features solo performances by the Center's advanced students, who get down with a couple of the Bach boys, Listz, Mozart and other dead heavies. Community Music Center 544 Capp St., 4 p.m., free. Call 647-6015.

Poetry and Music in Solidarity - Poets and musicians from Chile, Mexico, and Nicaragua plus a message from the Comite de Apoyo Zapatista. Mexican foods. A benefit for Semillero a new alternative press project. La Pena del Sur 2870-A 22nd St., 5 p.m., \$3-5. Call 550-1101.

MONDAY, MARCH 14

Monday Martian Madness - Funny stuff, strange stuff, live on stage performance art stuff. The Marsh 1062 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$6. Call 641-0235

Dog Talk 2 - Read from the book of your choice at the Falling Dog Cafe Monday Night Bookball, 3591 20th St., 6:30 p.m., free.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

Short Films for Short People - A half hour of films for kids age 3 to 5. Mission Branch Library 3359 24th St., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m., free. Call 695-5090.

Charlie's Chuckleheads - Students from Charlie Varon's Comic Performance Workshop will do some post graduate work on your funny bone for \$5. The Marsh 1062 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m. Call 641-0235.

Sufferin' Suffixes - Editor Tiffany Ana Lopez and contributors Gary Soto and Gerald Haslam will read from Growing Up Chicano a new anthology of 20 Chicano authors writing about their childhoods. Modern Times 888 Valencia St., 7:30 p.m., free.

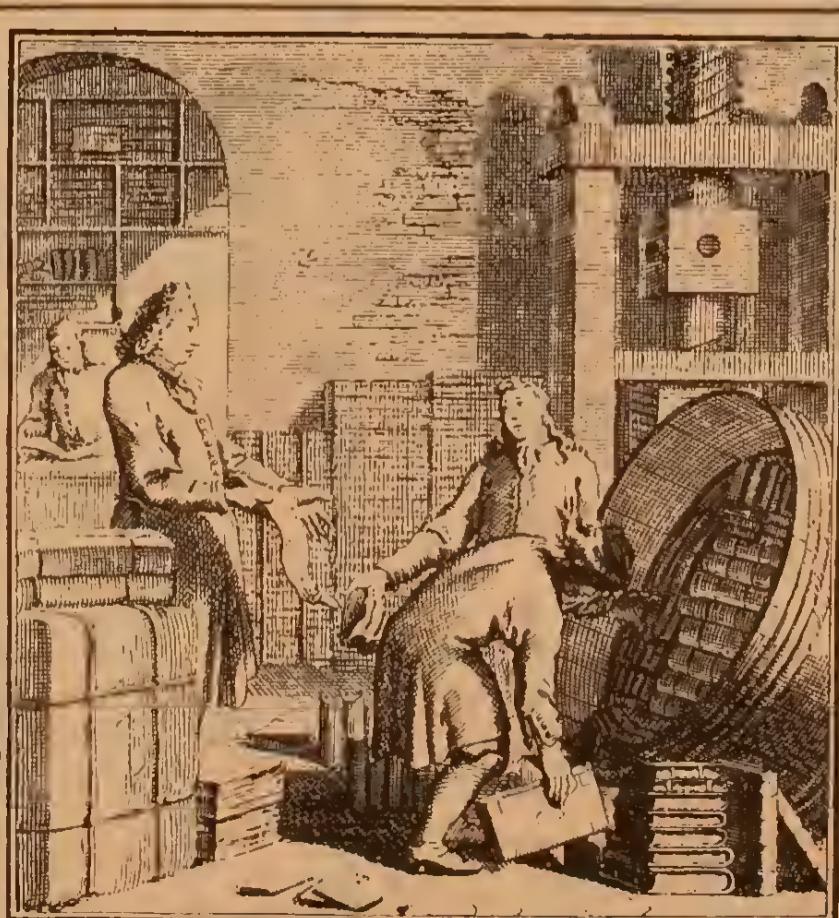
Discussing the Undiscussable - Novelist, poet, critic and essayist Jewelle Gomez conducts the first part of a two part workshop on expressing topics that are "forbidden" by our society. A number of these listed in the press information, sex, death, money, cruelty, incest, and addiction seem to already get a pretty fair amount of discussion on your average night of television. Intersection for the Arts 446 Valencia St., 8 p.m., \$3-5. Part II will be on March 22 at 7 p.m. Call 626-2787.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

Chiapas and the Current Movement in Mexico - Speakers will be Arturo Pimental Salas, Coordinator General of the Frente Mixteco-Zapoteco Binacional and international journalistic gadfly John Ross. Also included folk guitar music and Mexican foods. St. Peter's Church 2907 24th St., 6 p.m., \$3-5. Call 647-6379.

Openly Gay - The Bay Area's only open reading for lesbian and gay writers. Modern Times 888 Valencia St., 7:30 p.m., free.

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ture\demonstration by pianist Walid Akl as part of a 12- concert world premiere of the complete keyboard works of Franz Josef Haydn. Community Music Center 544 Capp St., 5:30, free. Call 647-6015.

THURSDAY, MARCH 17

Let's Drink To The Final Defeat of the British Army in Northern Ireland - And let's do it at the Dovre Club 3541 18th St. from Noon to whenever. Irish music and dancers, corned beef and cabbage and spirited sallies of wit.

Jordan's Love Poems - That's June Jordan and she's a scholar essayist, poet, political activist and author of over 20 books. Her latest work is haruko\love poems. Old Wives' Tales 1009 Valencia St., 8:00 p.m., \$3-10. Call 821-4676.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

Women in the Rough - Rough Women of the Sixties is an examination, with the aid of numerous lurid film clips, of the role of female characters in Sixties exploitation flicks. Were these movies misogynistic or merely misunderstood? Hosted by editor of Research Publication's "Incredibly Strange Films" Jim Morton. A.T.A. 992 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$5. Call 824-3890

Look Who's Talking and Talking and Talking - The Bedini Theater Project presents "Talking With" a collection of monologues for 11 actresses. Caution includes "gladsome humor". California Miracles Center 2269 Market St., 8 p.m., \$10. Also plays on March 19, 25, 26. Call 921-2769.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

Getting the Lead Out - Public meeting with the Department of Public Health regarding lead hazards in the home and what the department is doing about them. Sponsored by People Organized in Defense of Environmental Rights. Mission Neighborhood Health Center 240 Showell, 2 p.m., free. Call 431-4210.

Media Massage - Multimedia forum for anyone involved in the mass media such as video, film, dance, photography, etc. Mission Cultural Center Mission at 25th, 5 p.m., \$4. Call 334-2720.

Concerto Champs - Winners of the Community Music Center's Concerto Competition perform solo works by Mozart and Haydn. Features 10 year old pianist Tina Cheung. CMC 544 Capp St., 3 p.m., free. Call 647-6015.

The Feline Mystique Revealed - Seminar on common cat behavior problems. San Francisco SPCA 2500 16th St., 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., \$5-1

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

Barbeque Your Television - Open screening for all video makers plus all you can eat barbecue for only \$2. Call 824-3890 by March 18th to sign up. Bottom of the Hill 1233 17th St., 1 p.m.

F* Your Television** - A retrospective look at cable's Erotica SF with Media Empress Madeline, A.T.A. 992 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$5. Call 824-3890.

MONDAY, MARCH 21

More Martians - Performance art by Geoffrey Amidei, Sirena Irwin, Michele Menard, and Rob Nash. The Marsh 1062 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$5. Call 641-0235.

Third Dog Night - Open reading from a book of your choice. Falling Dog Cafe 3591 20th St., 6:30 p.m., free.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

The Naughty Naiads - A evening of erotic goings on with contributors to **The Romantic Naiad**, a new collection of love stories. Old Wives' Tales 1009 Valencia, 8 p.m., \$3-10. Call 821-4676.

Women in the Global Economy - Film series on women in the international labor

movement continues with videos on Mexico and South Africa. ATA 992 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$5. Call 824-3890.

The Original Latin Rock Musical - "Beyond the Rocks" is a fusion of modern dance, rock music and video, inspired by the Roman philosopher Lucretius. Runs through March 26 at Theater Artaud 450 Florida St., 8 pm, \$10.50 -12.50. Call 621-7797.

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

Incubator Project Showcase - Readings from new dramatic works in progress. Runs through March 27. Brava! for Women in the Arts 2180 Bryant St., 8 pm, Call 641-7657.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

Even Cowgirls Get the Black and Blues - "Uh-Oh" is a cinematic lesbian cowgirl version of **The Story of Q**, also screening is "Strange Weather" where crackheads meet Hurricane Andrew. ATA 992 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$5. Call 824-3890.

MONDAY, MARCH 28

Book 'em Dogo - Open reading from a book of your choice. Falling Dog Cafe, 3591 20th St., 6:30 pm, free.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29

Will You Be Roadkill on the Information Highway? - Writers Chris Pray, Merle Kessler and others discuss the intelligentsia's annoying metaphor for cable TV. The Marsh 1062 Valencia St., 8:30 pm, \$3-10. Call 641-0235.

Multi-faceted Jewelle - African-American, lesbian, Native American, ex-Catholic, fantasy writer, critic, poet and essayist Jewelle Gomez reads her poetry. Intersection for the Arts 446 Valencia St., \$3-5, 7 pm. Reception follows. Call 626-2787.

THURSDAY, MARCH 31

New Voices In Progress - Gloria Yamato and Deeanne Davis read from their work in progress soon to appear in **New Voices Anthology**. Subject matter is sex and race, mood is zany to provocative. Modern Times 888 Valencia St., 7:30 pm, free.

Women in the Global Economy - series conclusion, see 3/10.

ONGOING

MARCH 3- 13 THURSDAY-SUNDAY

"When Cucui Walks", a play about animal spirits, dreams, reality and the bogeyman (El Cucui). Mission Cultural Center 2868 Mission St., 8:30 pm, 7 pm on Sunday, \$6-8. Call 695-6970.

MARCH 24- APRIL 17 "Devotees in the Garden of Love", a one act play in which three black women report from the battlefield of love. Intersection for the Arts 446 Valencia St., 8 pm, \$10. Call 626-2787.

TUESDAYS Open Mike at the Falling Dog Cafe 3591 20th St., 8 pm, free.

THURSDAYS Next Exit, an interactive multimedia performance by high-tech shaman Dana Atchley. D3TV 3435 Army St. #222, 8 pm, \$15. Call 824-9394.

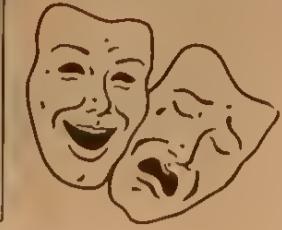
EVERY TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY Live Palestinian\Arabian music and song, Amira Cafe 590 Valencia St., 7:30 - 10 pm. Call 621-6213.

FRIDAYS Music Showcase, the best of the Falling Dog Cafe's Open Mike Night and invited others. 3591 20th St., 8:30 pm, free.

FRIDAYS Live oud and tabla music. Amira Cafe 590 Valencia St., 8-11 pm. Call 621-6213

SATURDAYS Lapsit - stories, songs and rhymes for toddlers 11 am, followed by a Spanish language version of the same at noon. Mission Library 3359 24th St., free. Call 695-5090.

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ROUND WORLD MUSIC REVIEW

by Robert Leaver



From Brazil to Haiti

Sergio Mendes won the world music Grammy Award last year for his album "Brasilero." This was a massively popular album featuring some powerful "samba-reggae" as it is called in Salvador, Bahia, the ancient capital of Brazil, which dates to the 16th century. Salvador is arguably the most African city in Brazil, from its people to its music. The bloco-afros, their version of samba groups, have gained international attention — most notably the group Olodum. These blocos feature large drumming and percussion units with deeper heavier drum emphasis than samba; they also fulfill an important social function in their neighborhoods, which tend to be poor.

Mendes went to Bahio and met with a brilliant young man, Carlinhos Brown, who is the director of a bloco called Timbalada. Mendes was impressed with the variety of rhythms and music this spirited group played. He invited them to record with him, and the result was his Grammy-winning "Brasileiro." All the best songs were written and performed by Carlinhos Brown and Timbalada, who were merely given songwriting credits in the liner notes. Timbalada deserved the Grammy for that record. Now they have their own self-titled release.

With two fine, painted breasts on the cover, one can't help but notice "Timbalada." Following Olodum, Mendes and the fusion record "Bahia Black" (also featuring Carlinhos Brown), Timbalada blows the roof off the bloco groove. Fast-tempo group drumming and singing are at the core of the tunes here, but there are also some studied embellishments on the keyboards and some punchy

grass to round out the mix. Rhythms vary and complex breaks and quirks can be found in most tunes. This is a heavy frenetic music that should thrill Afro-rhythm enthusiasts round the globe. The power and force of Timbalada demands respect; and to Carlinhos and crew, it's time — respect due!

Enthusiasts of Haitian music, bossa nova and Latin jazz alike should enjoy the new release by Reginald Policard and the Caribbean Sextet, entitled "Vinn Ave'm." The Caribbean Sextet has long been popular in Haiti's upper society, but this new album is a truly pan-Caribbean, sophisticated endeavor. Anchored in a rhythm section featuring several drummers and percussionists, Policard laces his tunes with Cuban monotones and jazz piano, while the saxes and trumpet build the excitement, with guitar that is used sparingly to augment the rhythm section. The tunes are well-crafted and evoke a sort of Caribbean cocktail time. Smooth.

Also from Haiti comes Beethova Obas' "Si..." Obas is now composing for the massively popular group from Martinique/Guadeloupe, Malavoi. "Si..." has a strong Brazilian bossa nova, tropical feel. Obas' voice sounds like the young Gilberto Gil — flowing easy over the rhythm while a chorus of ladies seductively sets the mood. I'm told that his French Creole lyricism is truly poetic. I am continually amazed at how easily Creole fits into the Brazilian sound. Obviously there is a shared African connection between Brazil and Haiti, but this record shows a more modern, studied link. On this largely an acoustic affair, recorded in Haiti, the small ensemble of top-notch musicians backs Obas brilliantly. "Si..." is perfect for a romantic affair or melancholy wonderings.

For Cubanos, rumberos and Latin jazz

fans, there is the new release by Patao called "Masterpiece." Mostly recorded in 1984 under the direction of pianist Jorge Balto, who died in 1987, the material here ranges from jazz to Afro-Cuban folklore. With a rhythm section including the Gonzalez brothers, Nicky Marrero and Sabu Martinez, what could be heavier? The rumbas are great and a couple

of the jazzy tunes seem to work. Patato, long known for his work with many of the great Latin and jazz bands of our time and also as a drumming demi-god for developing the tuned conga, is finally getting his. You can check it out, along with the other music reviewed here, at Round World Music at 593 Guerrero St....Oye!



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GREEN THINGS

by Frank Stauf

Rain forests. Freeway signs. American money...

"There is no such thing as green. There are only green things." Like green eggs and ham. The green-eyed monster. Mean Joe Green. The Green Lantern. The Green Death. Green Acres. Little green peppers? Little green men. "The Green Slime" (MGM, 1969, starring Robert Horton and Richard Jaeckel). The Green Berets. The Green Party. The Green, Green Grass of Home.

It's all vibration in the eye & brain of the beholder: a relationship. Perception, pattern. An illusion? A creation. The only difference between a physical, "objective" pattern and a "subjective" rhythm is that matter can be seen in the three dimensions of space, but the other, to be perceived as a tangible "thing", needs a fourth dimension: time.

Q: What's green and sits in a corner?

A: The same baby two months later.

We will never know the exact shade of the traditional green togas worn by the male prostitutes of Imperial Rome, but two thousand years later, to honor those brave civil servants, Oscar Wilde was wont to wear a green carnation in his buttonhole... In Rome, green was also the color of Venus, and in almost every human time and place it's been the color of fertility, of course. It's often had a double meaning: life and death. Green growing things, and putrefaction.

Green was the color of the god Osiris, who was castrated and hacked to pieces by his brother Set, his parts scattered all over Egypt. It's not easy being green. The Egyptians sometimes painted him that color to signify his double aspect: the dismembered corpse decaying, fertilizing barren fields, and the faithfully reappearing vegetation which his later resurrection represents.

The alchemical sign for 'green' is a cross inside a circle, as the god's sacrifice upholds but is contained within the cycles of nature. Ring

around the Maypole, love and death, lingam in yoni... but the alchemists, like other Europeans (and Egyptians) weren't content with nature as it was. They wanted to free the cross from the circle, spirit from nature. Like Spring without Winter — as if eternity could be gained by following straight lines forever. On a circle, every point occurs and reoccurs eternally. An endless woop?

In Spring, a young man's fancy turns to green. The fauns and nymphs and satyrs, elves and Sidhe, dance to Pan pipes in a ring of trees. The Sidhe are the Irish nature spirits Yeats wrote about; now cartoon leprechauns on jokey greeting cards and party decorations for St. Patrick's Day. March 17, a young man's fancy turns to beer. Last vestige of the pagan rites of Spring. Intoxication, fornication...ah, the good old days.

With St. Patrick's Day on my calendar, I have to think of you, Bill Hounshell — a.k.a. Bill E. Badd to the readers of this paper 5+ years ago. An Irishman extraordinaire, tattooed in Gaelic. Mixed your brandy with green Gatorade.

"Why not try the orange, Bill?"

You answered by rolling up your sleeves, revealing your tattoos. We both laughed. Room 15, All-Star Hotel, back in the days. A friend, a poet; played a mean conga; able to hold a hit of good green bud for a full minute. Also wrote a column for this paper, but saved your poetry for little books you xeroxed and gave away. You pour more E&J into my green jelly jar and grin all snaggle-toothed at your battered old black Underwood: "She's pregnant this week."

Big Belly Bill, they called you — skinny as a \$2 joint except for your distended gut — but it was your typewriter that was pregnant. Celtic bards, in Druid days, wore robes of green — and I was green with envy. Sort of. Not because your poems were all that brilliant, but because you had enough stirring in that big pot to produce so many of them, so alive — or any at all, given a life like yours

Q: What's green and lies in the ground?

stirring in that big pot to produce so many of them, so alive — or any at all, given a life like yours.

Q: What's green and lies in the ground?

A: The same Billy five years later.

If we fail to honor something in its time, it nags and lingers. Lacking green robes, lacking greenbacks, lacking even festivals and orgies, Bill, you drank like an alchemist in Room 15. Spring all the time? Only in America, where the corn is green and the green so jealously guarded.

Bill, we should have been born 3000 years ago — No, 3000 years from now. Who knows? Maybe our numbers will come up again. Rising up the wheel of time like Osiris...if the jackal-headed croupier, Anubis, doesn't ask for cash up front.

The "soul" may be a circle drawn in green, but "spirit" is a hopeful arrow aimed at heaven's blue, tra-la. Hope springs eternal as the monuments of Egypt, where the springs have mostly all dried up, the tall green trees felled long ago, heigh-ho. The Nile keeps flowing, though. These days we have to take what we can get. Subjective rhythms: cutups and erasures from the Egyptian Book of the Dead, the Papyrus of Ani:

"Make a scarab of green stone and place it within the heart of a person. May he walk, may he speak with you, saying, 'I have made my way by the tree of the children'. From the mouth of your paths the dead rise up to see you in the

place of bread and beer: 'Make green my tomb'."

According to the Tibetan Book of the Dead, if you haven't freed yourself by the 5th day of your journey through the Chonyid Bardo, you'll encounter two green lights. The trick is knowing which one means Go. Is it the brighter or the deeper green? (Actually, the real trick is to see through both.) The brighter light will lead you to "The Northern Realm of Heaped-Up Good Deeds", far from liberation but preferable to what you get by following the deeper light of the asuras. Not a pleasant crew, the asuras. Kinda like demons, notwithstanding there are far worse apparitions in the Sidpa Bardo (leading back to physical rebirth).

Where did Tibetan Buddhism get many of its demons? Same place Christianity did: old pagan gods and nature spirits. Like Yeats' Irish Sidhe, though, the asuras retain much of their original character, haunting deep green places, shadowy dells and forests.

Aye, the little people.

Did you go with the asuras, Bill? And will the kids at Horace Mann, your alma mater, remember to wear green on St. Patrick's Day? "Punch in the arm if you don't."

Cutup Ani: "I have remembered him, and those who have sunk down... My friend clothed his face, falling down on the things which are hidden, saying: 'I have brought myself to silence'."



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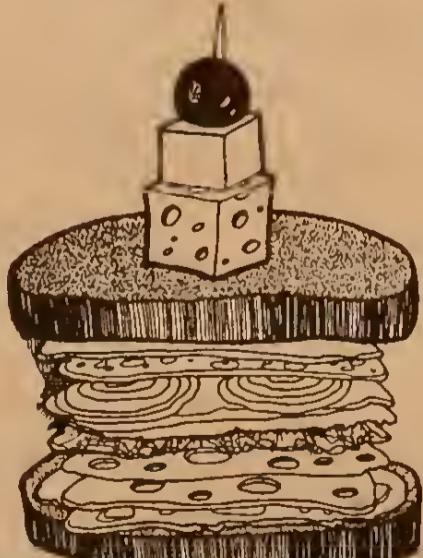
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